



MISSION ARLINGTON[®] MISSION METROPLEX



July/August 2015
Rainbow Express[®]
Mission Trip
Planning &
Preparation Packet



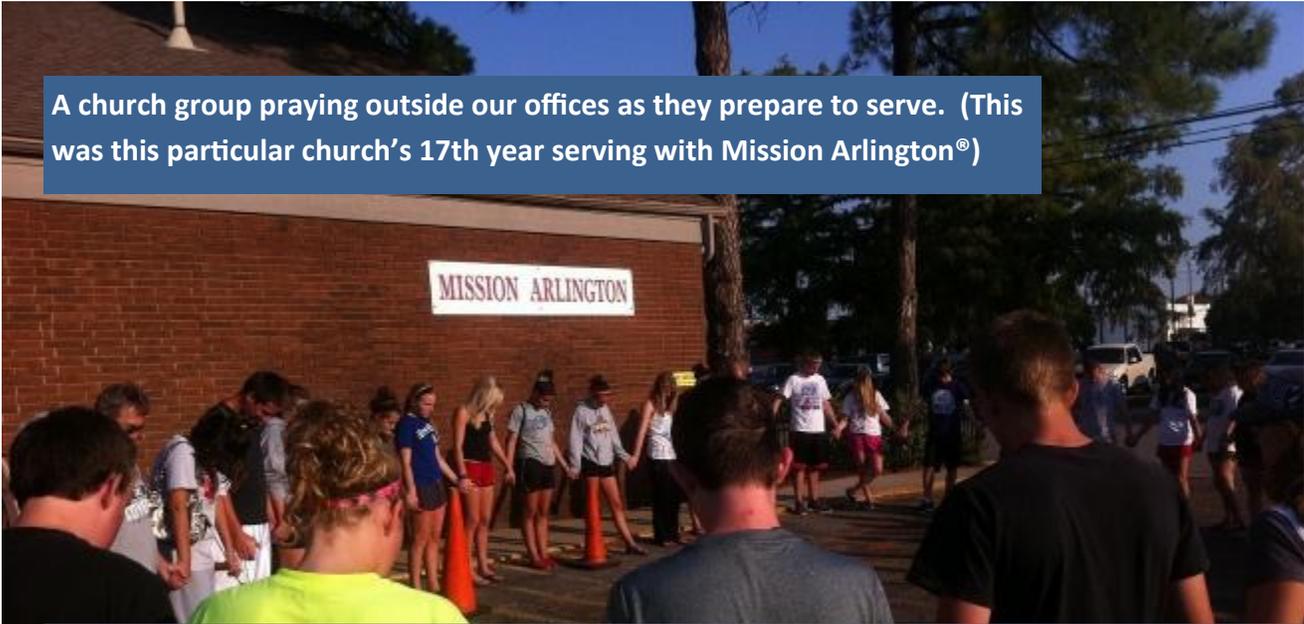
We are so grateful that the Lord is sending your group to Mission Arlington® / Mission Metroplex® for a 2015 July/August Rainbow Express® Mission Trip! Our team is praying faithfully for you as you prepare spiritually and logistically to serve with us here.

This packet should contain everything you need to prepare for your trip to Mission Arlington®. Please take the time to go carefully through this information. Here is how the information is organized:

- 1) Trip leader planning material: information for the student minister or other overall trip leader with details about accommodations, responsibilities, expectations, and preparation. These pages have a blue border.**
- 2) Student planning material: some of the same information, but formatted specifically so you can hand it out to your students. Includes things like dress codes, packing lists, schedule information, etc. These pages have a green border.**
- 3) Rainbow Express® material: the curriculum and schedule for each day's Rainbow Express® programs (which your group will be leading). These pages have a red border.**

If there is anything at all that we can do to help you prepare, please do not hesitate to let us know.

- **Jim Burgin, Heather Young, and Morgan Metcalf** lead our team of groups scheduling coordinators, with help from several other team members. You can reach them at 817-277-6620 or via e-mail at jim@missionarlington.org, hyoung@missionarlington.org, or mmetcalf@missionarlington.org.
- **Matt Hart** is our Rainbow Express® coordinator and will be one of your primary contacts while you are on your trip. You can reach him at the same phone number or via e-mail at matt@missionarlington.org.
- **Tillie Burgin** is our founder and Executive Director and always happy to answer questions. Her office phone number is the same or her e-mail is tillie@missionarlington.org.

A photograph showing a group of people, including children and adults, gathered outside a brick building. A sign on the building reads "MISSION ARLINGTON". The group appears to be in a line, possibly praying or participating in a service. The scene is outdoors with trees and a clear sky in the background.

A church group praying outside our offices as they prepare to serve. (This was this particular church's 17th year serving with Mission Arlington®)

Group Leader's Preparation Materials

Contains:

- Trip terms defined
- Schedules
- How do I prepare?
 - FAQs: accommodations, dress code, rules, etc.
 - Rainbow Express®: how to train your students to lead a Rainbow Express® program
- Logistics Questionnaire (to be filled out and sent to Mission Arlington® before your trip)
- T-Shirt Orders

Overview: So what are we doing on this trip anyway?

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 of our key terms:

- **Mission Arlington® / Mission Metroplex®:** We are an evangelical ministry functioning in partnership with most of the local churches in Arlington from across all denominations. Essentially, we do two basic things (which are closely intertwined): 1) we begin Bible Studies which over time grow into churches in neighborhoods (mostly low-income apartment communities) all over this city and 2) we meet a variety of physical needs through free “benevolent” programs like medical clinics, food pantries, afterschool tutoring, and more. You will be partnering with us by leading evangelistic programs in the apartment communities and other neighborhoods where we have ministries and by supporting our benevolent programs.
- **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 who 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, we have teams ministering in different ways in more than 300 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® congregation 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.



A volunteer leads music Sunday morning in an apartment community clubhouse

Schedule Information: Week Overview and Sunday

Week Overview

The most normal shape of a Rainbow Express® week is this:

- **Saturday:** Most groups arrive Saturday afternoon to check in. We are open for check in until 8 pm. If there is a situation that prevents you from checking in by that time, please contact us before your trip and we will be happy to make arrangements to check in.

Every group's situation is different. If you need to adjust this schedule for whatever reason let us know. We can work together to help create a week that works well for everybody.

- **Sunday:** In the morning you will help us hold church services in the neighborhoods we work with. That afternoon you will join all the groups here for the week, plus our staff, for a worship time.
- *Note—some groups (because they have responsibilities in their home church services on Sunday morning) do not participate in Sunday's activities because they travel and check in that day instead. As with Saturdays, we are available to check in until 8 pm. (If for some reason you cannot have at least one adult check in by 8 pm, contact us ahead of time and we will make arrangements.)*
- **Monday—Thursday:** You will lead Rainbow Express® these days. All groups will meet together twice: in the morning for a devotional time and in the afternoon for a brief worship service.

- **Friday—Saturday:** Friday is an optional day. Some groups continue to serve with us. Some groups go home Friday morning. Others take Friday as a free day for Six Flags or other recreational activity. All groups check out by Saturday morning.

More detailed schedules for each day are below and on the following page.

Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM Meet at Mission Arlington® with all groups for welcome, prayer, and orientation

10:00 AM Participate in Mission Arlington®'s apartment churches by helping invite, serve, and teach Sunday School in an apartment community or other Mission Arlington® congregation.

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.

3:15 PM Return to Mission Arlington®

4:00 PM Join Mission Arlington® missionaries for weekly prayer, worship, and preparation time

5:00 PM 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



Schedule Information: Tentative Monday—Thursday

8:30 Meet at Mission Arlington® for morning devotional time

9:45 Morning Rainbow Express® groups leave for their site

10:30 Morning Rainbow Express® begins

NOON Morning Rainbow Express® ends. Clean up, walk children home, etc., then take a lunch break.

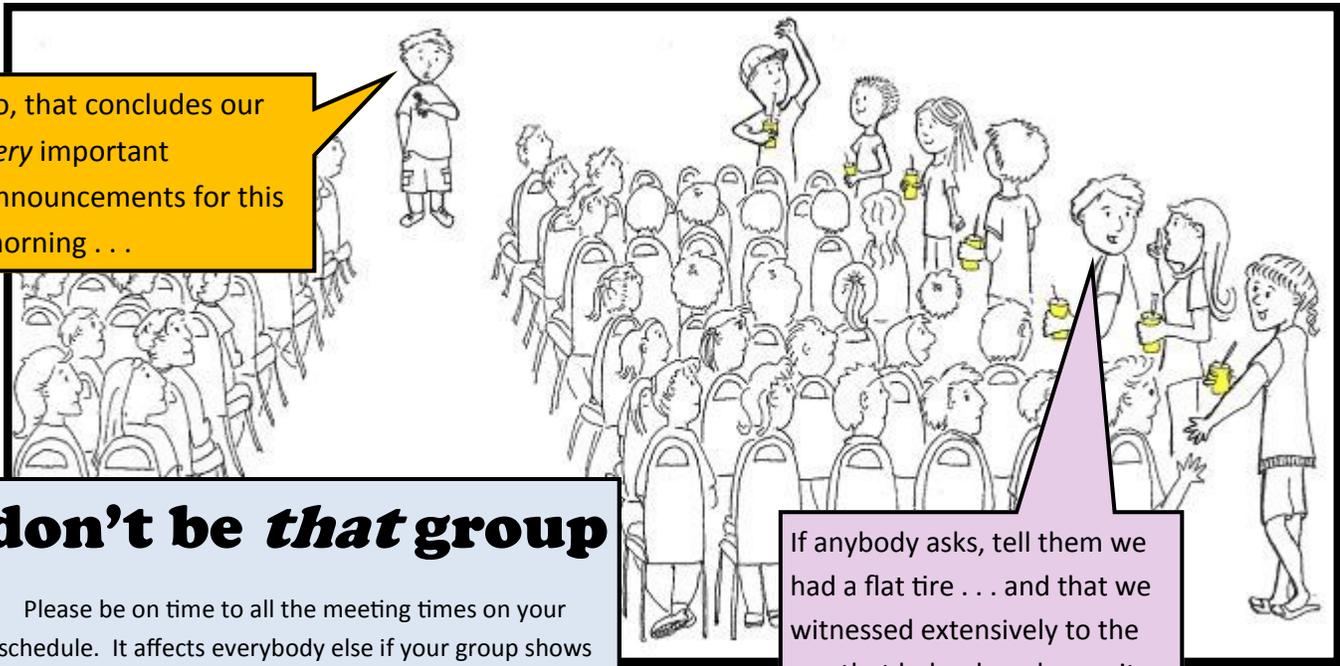
1:30 Meet to worship and prepare for Rainbow Express®

2:30 Depart for Rainbow Express®

3:00 Rainbow Express® begins

4:30 Rainbow Express® ends. Clean up and walk kids home.

5:00 Turn in daily report to Mission Arlington®. Options for projects in the evenings will be made available during the week.



So, that concludes our very important announcements for this morning . . .

don't be *that* group

Please be on time to all the meeting times on your schedule. It affects everybody else if your group shows up late because you made a coffee run on the way.

If anybody asks, tell them we had a flat tire . . . and that we witnessed extensively to the guy that helped us change it.

The Rules

We are praying that God will reveal Himself to your students during their time at Mission Arlington® in ways that bring about permanent, life-changing discipleship. We believe these rules help us keep that focus.

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.
- 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.
- We are asking that students and leaders **not wear leggings/tights/yoga pants/“jeggings”** unless they are also wearing shorts or a long shirt that would cover everything normally covered by a pair of shorts.
- **Note—if a student chooses to dress in something that does not fit with our dress code, a Mission Arlington® staff member will ask them to change before you begin your day's assignments. This only slows down your group and gives you less time to effectively minister during the day. So, please stick to the dress code.**

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.

CONDUCT GUIDELINES

- **Be focused on the most important thing:** Mission work is full of surprises. God has a specific plan for you, and for the many lives He will use you to touch. The best preparation for this experience is spiritual. Keep reading your Bible daily, both before you come, and while you are here. Make sure you keep your quiet time with the Lord as a firm commitment. Don't miss your moments with Him.
- **Let's be good stewards together:** All of Mission Arlington®'s facilities are donated to us. Any money that goes into repairs and maintenance is less money we can use in our assistance programs. So, let's be good stewards of what the Lord has given us:
 - Don't adjust thermostats
 - There is no housekeeping staff. So, help clean up spills, take out trash, and generally be clean and neat. Don't do things that will create clean up jobs for other people (for example, don't use sidewalk chalk at Rainbow Express®. It leaves work for apartment staff to wash it off.)
 - Don't do anything silly. We don't want to be unable to buy prescriptions for our medical clinic because we had to patch sheetrock or replace windows. (This includes in the apartment communities.) Don't roughhouse. Don't use any balls anywhere that aren't foam.
- **Help us present a good image to everyone** and maintain a good relationship and a positive witness with the neighbors around your activities or facilities.
 - Make sure that your noise level is under control. Do not play loud music, stay up too late at your accommodations, etc. Help us be a good picture of Christ to those around you.
 - Be sensitive to other people's needs. Be courteous and grateful everywhere you go. It is especially *crucial* that you control the noise level where you are staying. We cannot have loud music, parties, outside games, etc. We want *everywhere* to be our mission field, and that includes where you sleep at night.



Accommodations: Where are we staying?

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 one apartment in an apartment community where we minister. 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. 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. In other words, while your group is out leading Rainbow Express® there may be activities happening in the rooms 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.

- Be realistic. That means be prepared for all the adventure that comes from people sharing small spaces.
- Plan on minimizing what you bring. Twin sized (as opposed to queen sized) air mattresses will take up less space.
- Expect a small, apartment sized kitchen when you are planning your meals.
- You will only have one shower for every ten to fifteen people on your group. Be as efficient as possible and leave yourself plenty of time to get everything done.

Packing Lists

Here are some items you will need for your trip. We want to minimize costs as much as possible. If there are some items you are not able to bring, check with us (our contact info is on page 2). We might be able to loan you some of the items you need.

If you are bringing a trailer for luggage, be sure to bring a hitch lock with you. We will have a place you can park your trailer during the week so you don't have to pull it around the city but you will want a hitch lock for added security.

For Rainbow Express® , bring with you:

- Some of the memory verse activities require simple supplies like balloons or popsicle sticks.
- 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
- Some kind of staging for the puppets. If you don't have a puppet stage the two easiest/cheapest options are 1) hang an extra tarp or blanket across a broom handle or PVC pipe and have 2 volunteers hold it up or 2) many appliance stores will give away free large cardboard boxes you can use as an impromptu stage (see the illustration.)
- Any music you might need for your puppet time at Rainbow Express®.
- Water cooler and drinking cups.
- Snacks. Mission Arlington® will have some things available, but it helps if your church can also bring cookies, candy, chips, crackers, etc.
- 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.*



If you are staying in our accommodations:

(Prepare as if you were coming to a completely empty facility)

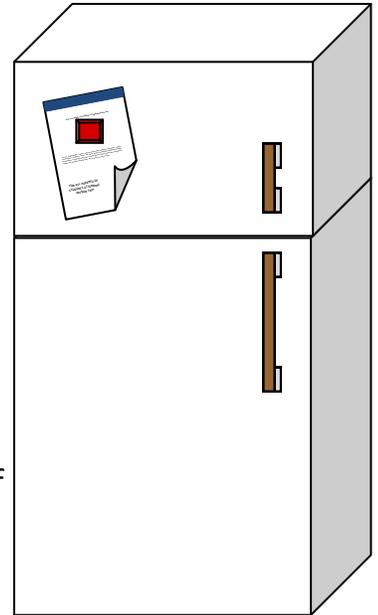
- Materials for meals: remember that you are responsible for all your own food. Most groups do sack lunches or fast food for lunch. Breakfasts and dinners are up to you. If you plan to cook remember that you are only guaranteed access to a normal, residential apartment-sized kitchen and make sure to bring any pots or pans you might need.
- Paper products: paper towels, plates, cups, plasticware, etc.
- Cleaning supplies
- Each person will need their own sleeping bag, pillow, and air mattress. (Encourage everybody to bring twin-sized air mattresses. You probably won't have room for large air mattresses in the apartment.)

The Refrigerator Sheet for Parents

FOR ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING JULY/AUGUST MISSION TRIP

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

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



Preparing for Rainbow Express[®]

For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

Romans 10:13-14



Rainbow Express[®] is Mission Arlington[®]'s version of a backyard Bible Club.

Your group will be leading one or more Rainbow Express[®] during the week you are here.

The following pages will help you prepare your team.

• Step one: How many teams will we be?

- Rainbow Express® is held in the apartment communities where Mission Arlington® is holding, planting, or hoping to plant a church. The average daily attendance at any given Rainbow Express® is 20-30 elementary aged children and a few youth. A team from your group of 8-10 college students, 10-15 high school students plus their sponsors, or 12-18 junior high students plus their sponsors is ideal for leading one Rainbow Express®. Thus, a group bringing 15 people will be one team, a group with 20 is probably two teams, and a group of 45 could be anywhere from three to five teams, depending on the ages. *Note—decide how many teams you will be based on the size of your group, not on your transportation situation. We can make site assignments that will work with any transportation configuration: whether you are carpooling or renting charter buses.*

Don't form your teams much larger than recommended. There's a discipleship reason for this: teams of 10-15 size allow each of your students to have a specific, important role and gently pushes them to "step up to the plate." Forming teams too large leaves room for some students to not have to take ownership and initiative in leading a Rainbow Express®. Let God have the opportunity to help your students rise to the occasion and use them in ways they won't expect.

• Step two: Who's on each team?

- Each team will need at least one adult sponsor (not necessary if the team is college students). The 10-18 students will each need one or more of the team member assignments explained on the next page. Use the descriptions and the worksheet provided to make team assignments

• Step three: Start practicing.

- Assign your students their roles, pass out the Rainbow Express® materials (later in this packet) and then let them start learning their jobs. We recommend holding at least a couple of practice run-throughs if possible. One good option is let your team use their Rainbow Express® material to lead children's Sunday School at your church for a couple of weeks.

• Step four: Gather what you need.

- We try to make the cost for your trip as low as possible. You should not need to spend much (if any) money on Rainbow Express® supplies. On page 9 you will find lists of what you need to provide for leading Rainbow Express®. We will have everything else.



Each Rainbow Express® Team will have the following functions. Assign each student and adult per team to at least one of these jobs. More detailed instructions for each job are in the red section.

- **Adult team leader/Sponsor:** You will need at least one adult per team. College students can fill this role as well.
- Song leader
- Memory Verse teacher
- Large group leader
- Puppet wrangler
- Games leader
- **Attendance taker:** this person's responsibility is to make sure we have good contact information for *everybody* you make contact with during your mission trip so that Mission Arlington® / Mission Metroplex® can provide follow-up discipleship after you are gone. If possible, this is a good job for an adult.
- **Youth leader:** this does not refer to the youth minister but to a member of your Rainbow Express® team that will be in charge of working with any teenagers that attend your Rainbow Express®
- **Small group teams:** much of the Rainbow Express® program will take place in small groups. *All* team members will help during the small group time. Assign each team member a partner. That pair will lead a small group together.



There is a blank team roster on the next page. 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® site names until you are at Mission Arlington®.)



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 Wrangler:	
Game Leader:	
Attendance Taker:	
Youth Leader:	
Small Group Partner pairs: <i>(This is all students in your group, matched in pairs to lead small groups)</i>	

Remember that one person can have more than one responsibility.

Logistics Questionnaire

After reading through the entire blue section of this packet, please answer the following questions. The sooner you can provide this information to Mission Arlington®, the more successfully we will be able to prepare for your time here. You can turn this information in one of two ways: e-mail it to Matt Hart at matt@missionarlington.org or fax it to us at 817-277-3388. **Please have this to us at least one month prior to your arrival.** Please answer all questions, even if you have already given us some of this information. It helps us double check our records. We know last-minute changes are common on youth trips. It is no problem for any of this information to change, just let us know as soon as possible.

- 1) Confirm the correct wording of your group name (so we don't accidentally call you First Baptist instead of First Christian the whole week, etc.)
- 2) Who will be our primary contact while you are here?
- 3) Is there anything we can do to help you prepare for Rainbow Express®?
- 4) How many students do you expect to bring? How many sponsors?
- 5) Confirm the date and approximate time of your arrival at the Mission? (We are in the office until 8 pm each evening. If extenuating circumstances require you arrive later than that please make sure we know so that we can work with you on a plan to check in, receive your keys, etc.)
- 6) Confirm the date and approximate time you will be leaving from Mission Arlington®
- 7) If you are going to be helping us on Sunday mornings please send us a list of names with a "T" by those people who are comfortable teaching a Bible Study and an "H" by those who prefer to help.
- 8) What type of transportation are you bringing (vans, buses, etc.) and how many vehicles?
- 9) How many Rainbow Express® teams will you have? How many will be on each team? (Our suggested team size is about 10 to 15 people.)
- 10) What is a cell phone number where we can reach you as you are traveling or when you arrive?
- 11) Are you planning to stay in accommodations arranged by Mission Arlington®?
- 12) Is there anything else we need to know about your accommodations situation?
- 13) Many of our accommodations are upstairs in apartments, etc, so please make sure we know if your group requires handicapped access.
- 14) Some of the local churches that are housing groups have kitchenettes (refrigerator and microwave but no stove/oven—meaning only the ability to prepare sandwiches, cereal, etc.) as opposed to full kitchens. We will make sure that every group that will be cooking has access to a full kitchen. If you know your group does *not* need a full kitchen because you are eating out in the evenings, etc. it will help us to know that ahead of time so we can match you with one of those churches.

Every year Mission Arlington®/ Mission Metroplex® makes mission trip t-shirts available for groups. *This is an optional expense—no one is required to buy shirts.* Shirts are available in sizes from Adult Small to XXX-Large for \$10 each.

There are three ways to order shirts: 1) buy them while you are here. 2) pre-buy with check or credit card and pick them up during your trip and 3) order with check or credit card and have us mail them to you (there will be an extra charge for shipping that will depend on how many shirts you purchase).

If you need more information about shirts, or to place an order, call Matt Hart or Debbie Musgrave at 817-277-6620 or e-mail matt@missionarlington.org.

T-Shirt Order Form

Group:

Date of order:

Contact name and phone number:

Method of payment:

Small _____

Medium _____

Large _____

X-Large _____

XX-Large _____

For those paying with Credit Card:

Card type:

Name as it appears on card:

Billing address of credit card:

Credit Card Number:

Expiration date:

Total amount to be charged:

E-mail:

Contact # (in case of questions regarding credit card):

A group teaching the memory verse in a July/August Rainbow Express®



Student Preparation Materials

Contains:

- Packing List
- Spiritual Preparation Helps
- Dress Code and Rules

Packing List

Here are some items you will need for your trip:

- 1) Bible: keep it with you all the time. It will be your most important lifeline for the week.
- 2) Sleeping bag or other bedroll
- 3) Air mattress or other cot (nothing bigger than twin size)
- 4) Towels, washcloths, toiletries
- 5) Your Rainbow Express® material: your copies of the lessons for small group, plus any materials you need for your specific assignment (memory verse posters for the memory verse teacher, puppet music for the puppet wrangler, etc.)
- 6) Clothing: **see dress code on the next page**. Bring plenty of comfortable clothing and be ready for Texas summer weather, which can mean temperatures above 100°. **Note—if you choose to dress in something that does not fit with our dress code, a Mission Arlington® staff member will ask you to change before you begin your day's assignments. This only slows down your group and gives you less time to effectively minister during the day. So, please stick to the dress code.**
- 7) **A daily backpack:** (This optional suggestion is borrowed from some of our groups, and it has worked great for them.) Bring a backpack with any or all of the following items:
 - 8) Extra Bibles to give away
 - 9) Small, basic first aid kit
 - 10) Trash bags for cleaning up while you are at Rainbow Express®
 - 11) Water bottle (*very good idea*)
 - 12) Candy or small prizes to give away
 - 13) Extra activities to do with the children and youth at your Rainbow Express® that match up with your skills. Whether it's a hacky sack or extra nail polish (pictured to the right) what hobby or talent do you have that you can share with the children you are ministering to on mission trip?



The Rules

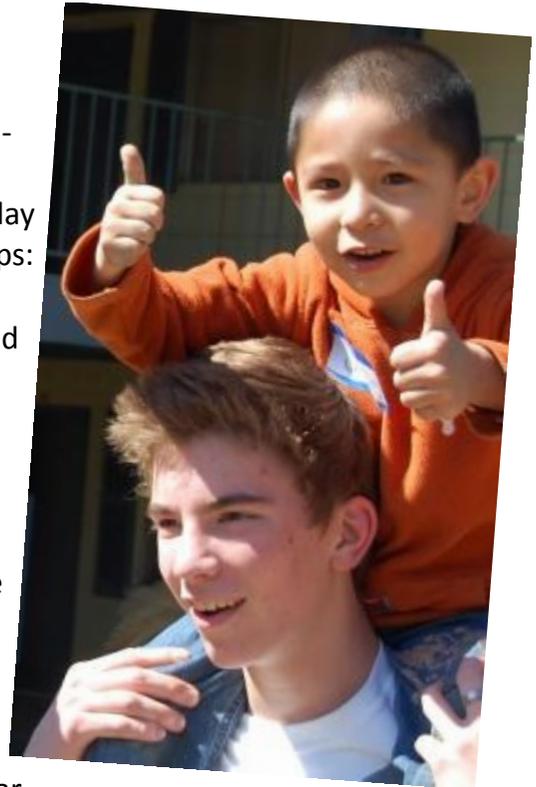
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- T-shirts are great to wear, but please no tank tops or any other kinds of sleeveless shirts.
- Baseball caps are fine, but please wear forward at all times. Do not wear bandanas or any other type of head gear.
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CONDUCT GUIDELINES

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Telling Your Story

In Acts chapter 4 Peter, when threatened if he ever spoke in the name of Jesus again, responded “we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” Do you feel that way about your salvation? Are you so thrilled by the fact that God would save a sinner like you that you cannot help but talk about it.

Unfortunately, sometimes we convince our selves it is hard to talk about our faith. When we share our testimony, we are being witnesses, reporting the Good News of the everything-changing difference Christ has made in our lives. Here are some tips to help you share your testimony at Rainbow Express® this week.

- **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 18th 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.



But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect . . .

1 Peter 3:15

- **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.

Prayer Guide

We will be serving with Mission Arlington® this July/August because we believe that our Father, the Lord of the Harvest, is sending us into His harvest fields. With that in mind, we need to spend time each day as we prepare for this trip asking the Lord to make it exactly what He wants it to be. Here are some thoughts to help you in your prayer times for this mission trip.

- Pray for our team as we prepare to go. Help us to be ready logistically and, most importantly, spiritually. We can't be effective sharing the gospel until we ourselves are above all else in love with the Father.
- Pray for the Mission Arlington® missionaries who will be "preparing the soil" before we arrive and following up with discipleship after we leave.
- Pray for each neighborhood where we will be ministering. Pray that God will draw *exactly* the people He wants to hear the message.
- Pray that the gospel will be presented clearly in all that we do.
- Pray that God will draw people to Himself and that they will respond to our message by putting their faith in Him.
- Pray for more year round missionaries for Mission Arlington® who will continue to plant churches in these neighborhoods.

Some Scripture to Help You Pray

- As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. 1 Samuel 12:23 ***We don't want to sin by not praying for the people God is sending us to teach.***
- 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 3:20-21 ***We want this week to be according to God's plan, not ours. His perfect plan will be above and beyond anything we could plan.***
- Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! 1 Chronicles 16:24. ***We go on mission because God is worthy of being shared about. Let's help Arlington see His marvelous works!***



Large group time on the playground
at a prior year's Rainbow Express®

Rainbow Express®

Preparation Materials

- Outline for each day's Rainbow Express®
- Instructions for each team member
- Supplemental materials for each activity: memory verse, games, songs, etc.

Rainbow Express® Overview

- ◆ When you arrive at your site, have one adult leader check in with the office of the apartment community each day to let them know you are there. Always offer to help with anything the office staff might need.
- ◆ Begin by gathering the children and teenagers that will be attending. This will involve knocking on all the doors of the apartment community to invite people.. 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** as you gather the children into a large group to begin. 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.
 - ◆ 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.
- ◆ Each day the Large Group Leader will welcome the children and provide an introduction to the day's themes and activities. The more creative and engaging the Large Group Leader acts, the more interested and involved the children will be during the large group.
- ◆ A couple of students share their **testimony**. (There are tips on preparing your testimony in the student preparation packet.)
- ◆ Ask for prayer requests and pray.

It is a crucial part of our witness to the character of God that we honor our commitments to the neighborhoods where we are holding Rainbow Express®. That means don't arrive late to Rainbow Express® and don't leave early.



- ◆ The Memory Verse leader will lead the children in learning the memory verse during the first **memory verse activity**. (There are suggested memory verse activities for each day in the memory verse teacher instructions portion of this section. Remember that you need to provide whatever materials you need for the memory verse activities.)

- ◆ Divide up into **small groups**, as small as you can depending on the number of children and people in your group. Plan on dividing your small groups based on age and gender (for example: 1) preschool, 2)

younger elementary boys, 2) younger elementary girls, 3) older elementary boys, 4) older elementary

girls, and so on. Depending on who actually attends your Rainbow Express® site be prepared to flex if need be in the way you divide.)

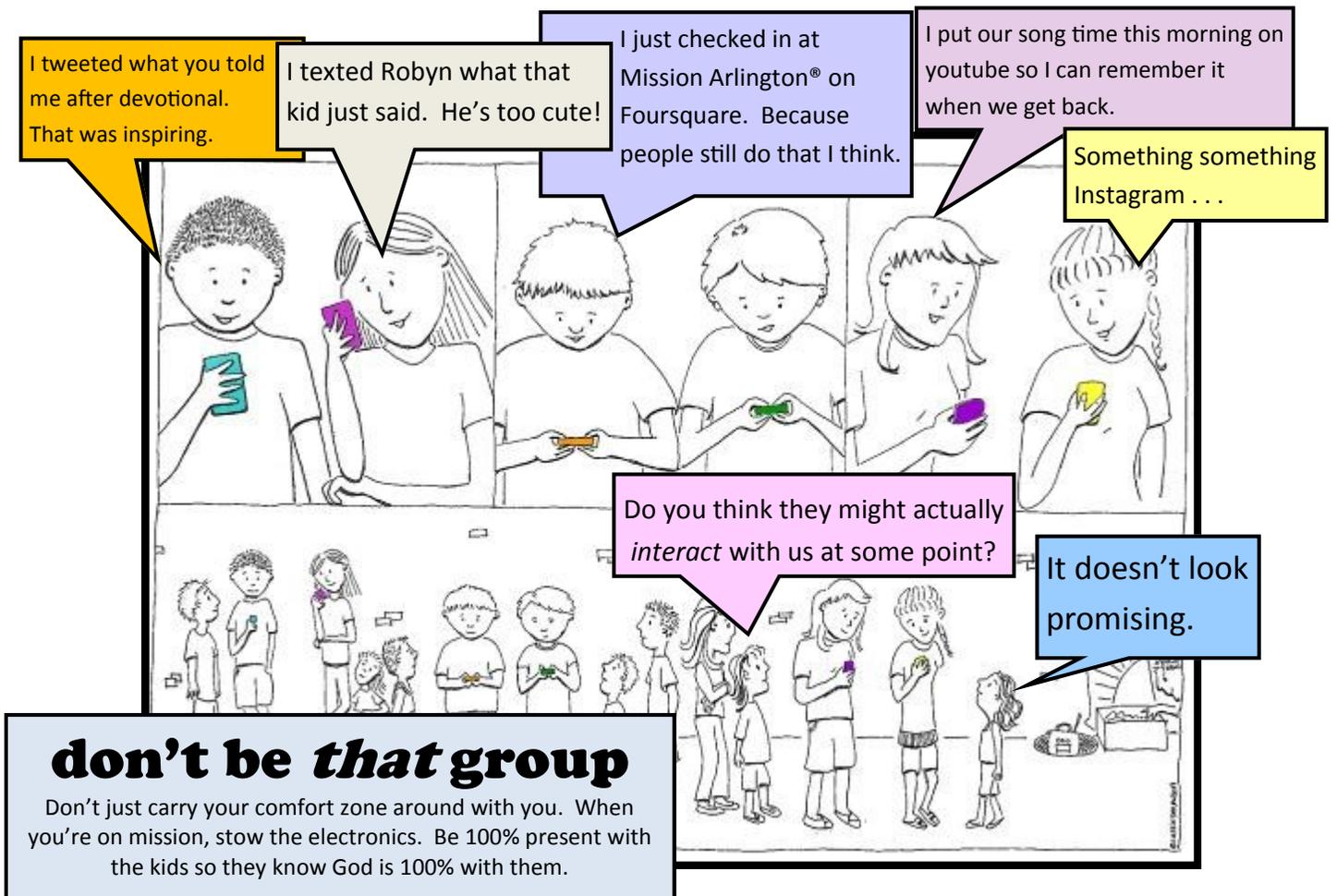
- ◆ Each small group team will share the day's Bible Story while in their small group.
- ◆ Take this time after the story to pray with the children in your small group. Ask them for things they would like to pray about. Tell God how awesome He is. Ask Him to help you and the children in your small group 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.
- ◆ Hands on activity: you will have an activity for the children in your small group to do during this time. Days 1, 2, and 4 you will have activity packets with coloring sheets, word searches, mazes, and memory-verse related word games. Day 3 you will make salvation bead bracelets. All of these materials will be provided by Mission Arlington® while you are here.
- ◆ While still in small groups, review the week's memory verse. You can do a small group version of the same memory verse activity you used in large group time, or choose from one of the other suggested activities in the memory verse teacher material. (Remember that you need to provide whatever materials you need for the memory verse activities.)
- ◆ 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. Have the children eat snacks there so you can make sure all trash is cleaned up.
- ◆ It is mandatory that you walk each child home after Rainbow Express®.
- ◆ After everything is cleaned up and all children are walked home, come back to Mission Arlington® to turn in your reports for the day.

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.

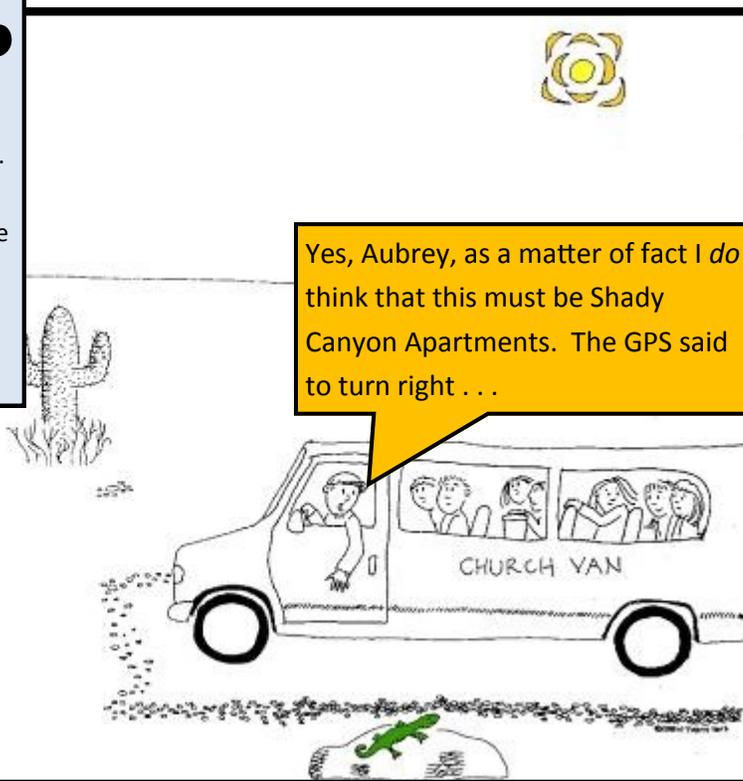


Adult Team Leader / Sponsor

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ **Communicate with Mission Arlington®** staff with any questions or problems during Rainbow Express®: if you get lost, if you're not sure where to set up, if you need extra supplies, etc. Your primary Mission Arlington® contact during the trip will be Matt Hart, cell phone number 817-929-2749.
- ◆ Make sure your team is getting **good contact info for everybody that attends** so that Mission Arlington® missionaries can follow up.
- ◆ Make sure that **each day during the trip your report is turned in to Mission Arlington®** at the end of the day (this will involve the day's Rainbow Express® attendance and information on any special follow-up needs you encounter.)
- ◆ Each night during your trip: oversee the preparation of all other team members for tomorrow's Rainbow Express®. Ensure that any advance preparation needed for crafts, memory verse activities, or closing activities has been done.
- ◆ Be very familiar with the lessons and activities for each day. **Make sure EVERY child gets walked home** at the end of EVERY Rainbow Express®.
- ◆ The first day of Rainbow Express®, be sure to **connect with the apartment manager** and any other office personnel in the neighborhood where you are leading Rainbow Express®.

don't be *that* group

Mission Arlington® will give you directions and instructions for every neighborhood where we send you. Please compare your GPS to these instructions. If they disagree, check with us before you go. Two years ago we had two groups miss the entire first day of Rainbow Express® because they trusted their GPS and ended up *miles* from where the kids were waiting for them.



Small Group Teams

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ All the Bible stories this week are intended to help the children see that they can trust God's way for life and salvation.
- ◆ Before you come, read all of the stories in the Bible and as they are retold for children in the following pages. 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. 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.



Songs 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.
- ◆ The following pages contain some suggested "Sunday School songs" to get you thinking about songs to use.
- ◆ 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. If you see songs you don't know in the packet, you can find lots of them on youtube.
- ◆ 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.



1. Bubbling

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

2. Come and Go with Me

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

3. Deep and Wide

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

4. Do You Love my Jesus

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

5. Father Abraham

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

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

6. God Is So Good

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

7. Give Me Oil in my Lamp

Give me oil in my lamp,
Keep me burning, burning, burning
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray
Give me oil in my lamp,
Keep me burning, burning, burning
Keep me burning til the break of day
Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna,
Sing Hosanna to the King of Kings
Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna,
Sing Hosanna to the King

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

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

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

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,
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 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
They are weak but He is strong
Chorus:
Singing na 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
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?
wiggie wiggie wiggie
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. wiggie wiggie wiggie

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

Memory Verse Teacher

- ◆ Pray that they will learn the verse of the week, so they can carry a piece of the Bible with them always.
- ◆ The children will have two opportunities to hear the memory verse each day: once in the opening time in a large group and once after the story time in a small group. You will be responsible for leading the memory verse activity in the large group.
- ◆ Read through the suggested activities ahead of time. Some require additional planning and/or materials. Make sure you have what you need.
- ◆ Make sure everyone on your team knows the activities you plan to use. Help the other small group leaders decide which memory verse activities they will do each day.
- ◆ Do more than just lead the activities as they are described in the packet. Spend time explaining the meaning of the verse and how it applies to life. Help the children understand what the memory verse means.
- ◆ The following page contains suggested memory verse activities that you can choose from. Remember that you need to provide whatever materials you need for the memory verse activities.
- ◆ The verse of the week is:

For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him. John 3:16-17 (NLT)

Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que cree en El, no se pierda, mas tenga vida eterna. Porque Dios no envió a su Hijo al mundo para juzgar al mundo, sino para que el mundo sea salvo por El. Juan 3:16-17 (LBLA)(Spanish)

Memory Verse Teacher (continued)

- **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.
- **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.



Be sure to make a visual aid to help teach the memory verse.

PUPPETS

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

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 to 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. 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.

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. If you would like to purchase puppet music instead of using what you already have, consider a series called RPM-Righteous Pop Music. You can order from them on-line from the company that produces them at onewaystreet.com.

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



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, teenager, and parent you meet (and where they live) so that we can get them involved in weekly Bible study. Also, if a child accepts Christ as their Savior or needs special attention, you will mark this on the attendance sheet so the appropriate follow-up takes place.
- ◆ As children arrive for each 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.

Dude, *great* day today. We had a one parent and two kids who accepted Christ, a teenager looking for a church, and a whole family that need Bibles in Spanish.

Awesome, I'll get those names to that neighborhoods' missionary tonight so they can start following up right away.

Yeah. We actually lost our attendance sheet. I remembered about half of the names and wrote them on this napkin. Some of their apartment numbers are under the ketchup spot. There's also one guy who wants to get baptized. He usually wears socks, so he should be easy to find again . . .

don't be *that* group

We take discipleship seriously at Mission Arlington®. We know you do too. Help us by making sure we get good reports from you each day so we can follow up with all the people you make contact with.

Large Group Leader

- ◆ Pray for the children you will be teaching. Pray that this week the word of God 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.

- ◆ In each day's introduction you will want to help the children learn to love God's words. You want them to have a heart like Peter in John 6:68-69 when he said: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."



This large group leader made a cape. You *know* the kids listened to her. Kids love capes.

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ It will not be your job to tell each day's Bible story. That will happen in the small groups.

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 who have come.
- ◆ Kids are more likely to listen to and interact with people 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 on the next page. 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 balls, Frisbees, or anything else that could potentially break windows in the apartment communities. Bring soft, Nerf type balls and toys that cannot cause any damage.**



Games Leader (continued): SUGGESTED GAMES

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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).
- **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.
- **Trust Walk:** Choose a landmark in your area to be the “goal” of this game. A mailbox or tree will probably be readily available for this purpose. Blindfold one player and choose another player to be the “guide.” Have the rest of the children scatter themselves between the blindfolded person and the goal. The guide leads the blindfolded person through all the people to the goal while the children in the way will call out other directions. The blindfolded player must listen carefully to the 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.
- **Elbow Tag:** Assign all players a partner. Spread pairs out evenly across the playing area. Have the pairs link arms. Choose one pair to start out as the chaser “It”, and the chatee. Just like regular tag, It tries to tag the chatee. If the chatee is tagged, he or she in turn becomes it and the chase reverses. The chatee’s goal is to link with another player. When the chatee links arms with one side of a pair, the other player must unlink, becoming the chatee.

Youth Leader

Teenagers will often gather around the periphery of your Rainbow Express®. Choose at least one person (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

Continued on next page

Youth Leader

TIPS ABOUT WORKING WITH INNER-CITY 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.

- 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.

2015 July/August Rainbow Express® Curriculum

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

Day One

S U M M A R Y

- **Large Group**
 - Songs
 - Puppets
 - Testimony
 - Memory Verse: Fast and Slow
- **Small Group**
 - Story: The Creation and the First Sin
 - Theme: God's Love and our Sin
 - *Highlights for discussion:*
 - Everything was made by God
 - God wanted everything to be perfect for us
 - Our sin is to blame for our separation from God
 - God loves us in spite of our sin
 - From the very beginning God promised to make a way to save us
 - Scripture to support today's story: Genesis 1-3, Romans 5:12-21, 1 Corinthians 15:21-23
 - Craft
 - Memory Verse Review
- **Large Group**
 - Story review questions

Pre-Rainbow Express® Gathering

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

Song Time/Puppets

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

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

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

Testimony

The theme for this whole week of Rainbow Express® is *For God so Loved . . .* Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that God loved the world so much that He sent a

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

Savior. Obviously, the decision to follow Christ is an incredibly personal decision. It is important that the children and youth that 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 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 God loves us and shares that love with us for children that are attending for the first time. Take time to sum up the previous day’s stories and themes. Be sure each day to introduce the theme for the day’s story. The stories for the whole week are intended to show how God has worked throughout time to bring people closer to Him. Help the children understand that God knows that we have done wrong things but loves us anyway. God wants desperately for all people to know Him and accept Christ as their Savior. When you have finished this introduction, divide the children into small groups so that they can learn their story.

Small Group Story Time

The text provided here is to serve as a guide for you while you tell the story. Read it through several times and be able to tell it from memory. It is not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. Your goal is to be able to 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: Creation and the First Sin

Before there was anything, there was God. He had always been. God was before there was light, wind, water, or trees. God was before there were fish, animals, or people. When there was nothing else, there was God.

God decided to create. He spoke when there was nothing. He created everything that is with only His words. First God said “Let there be light.” Where there was only nothing, there was light. God continued to create. He spoke and there was sun, moon, and stars. There were oceans, eagles, slugs, and seeds. There were rivers, worlds, and then last of all, there were people. God spoke and created the first man and woman.

God created people because He wanted to have a loving relationship with us. God loves people, and He deeply wants us to love Him back. The first two people God created were a husband and wife named Adam and Eve.

God gave Adam and Eve everything that they needed. He created a beautiful garden for them to live in. In that first garden, everything was like God wanted it to be. All the animals were friends to Adam and Eve. They were never sick. No day was too hot. No day was too cold. Rocks did not cut Adam and Eve’s bare feet. Dogs did not bite. Adam and Eve never had to be hungry or thirsty. They had everything they needed in the garden. Adam and Eve were never going to die. They were going to live forever in that perfect place God had made for them. Best of all, God was Adam and Eve’s friend. God himself used to come to the garden to visit Adam and Eve. He would walk

Day One

together with them and speak to them face to face, just like you talk with your friends.

Can you imagine how wonderful it must have been to live in the garden? It was a beautiful place, especially designed by God for people to live in and enjoy. God made the garden so that He could spend time in it with people. God's design was for all people to live in the perfect world He made and spend time with Him. God wanted them to personally know Him and walk with Him.

Something happened, though, didn't it? You can look around and see that the world is not perfect anymore. The world has changed from the way God made it. There are still lots of wonderful things here, but there are lots of changes too. Now the sun that kept Adam and Eve warm also burns our skin if we stay outside too long. The cool water that we drink also destroys homes when it floods. The animals that are our pets also bite. The trees still grow delicious fruit to eat, but they grow some things that make us sick too. What happened to change everything? Why isn't the world perfect any more? The Bible says that the answer is something called *sin*.

Adam and Eve's lives in the garden were perfect. They had no problems, and they did not even know about any. Adam and Eve had never heard of *disobeying* or *evil*. They did not know about *suffering* or *wrong* or *death*. When God created the garden, He put one very different tree in the center. This tree grew a special fruit. God knew that anyone who ate of this fruit would stop being His friend. They would learn to do wrong. God gave Adam and Eve a warning: "You are free to have anything you want from this garden. Every tree, every plant, every vegetable, and every fruit is yours free to eat. Only do not eat of this one tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat from that tree, you will die."

At first Adam and Eve lived just like God wanted them to. They enjoyed God's wonderful garden, and He walked with them in it. Then one sad day Adam and Eve made a choice that changed everything. They were walking through the garden when they passed near the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Somebody was waiting for them there.

That day the devil was in the garden. He had made himself look like a snake. When Adam and Eve came near the tree, he spoke to them. "Did God tell you that you cannot eat any of the fruit in the garden?" He asked.

"Oh no," Eve answered. "God lets us have anything we want from the garden. We can eat from any tree except this one. If we eat from this tree, God says we will die."

"You will not die," the devil lied. "God does not let you eat from that tree because He is selfish. He knows that if you eat from that tree, you will be as smart as He." Everything the devil told them was a lie, but Adam and Eve made a terrible choice. They decided to listen to that liar the devil instead of listening to God.

Eve reached out and picked a fruit from the tree. She ate some and gave some to her husband Adam who was with her. They both ate some of the fruit. As soon as they took a bite, they knew they had done wrong. Adam and Eve became ashamed. They knew that they had disobeyed God's only rule for them. They were so sad about what they had done that they did not even want to see God. They hid themselves in the bushes when they knew that God was coming to walk with them. That was the first time that they ever tried to be away from God.

God knew all that had happened. It broke His heart that they had disobeyed Him. He knew that their friendship with Him was gone. God knew that people would not be able to stay loving friends with Him if they were not going to listen to Him. That afternoon God went to the garden like always. He wanted to give Adam and Eve the chance to tell Him the truth about what they had done. Instead, Adam and Eve stayed hidden.

God knows everything that happens. He knew where Adam was hiding, but He gave the man a chance to do the right thing and tell Him the truth. "Adam, where are you hiding?" God called out.

Adam nervously came forward. "I knew you were coming so I hid," Adam said. "I was ashamed."

"And have you eaten from the tree I told you to stay away from?" God asked.

Adam was afraid. He and Eve had always been kind to each other. They had never before lied or done anything wrong to each other. Now, for the first time, Adam was unkind to Eve. "I did eat some of the fruit," Adam said. "But it was not my fault. Eve gave it to me."

God was sad that Adam tried to blame Eve instead of just admitting he had done wrong. Next, God turned to Eve. "What have you done?" God asked her.

"It is not my fault," Eve said. She also tried to blame somebody else for what had happened. "The snake tricked me into eating it." God knew what the snake had done, but He also knew that Adam and Eve had decided to

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believe the snake instead of Him. He knew it was Adam and Eve's own decision to not listen to Him.

God was very sad about what Adam and Eve had done. They had broken His rule. They had committed the first *sin*. Sin is anything we think, do, or say that goes against what God wants. They had lost their place in His garden. God sent Adam and Eve away from the garden. He told them that now everything was changed. They would have to work hard for their food. Their sin changed the whole world. Some of the animals became mean. Sickness came for the first time. Days became too hot or too cold. People began to become old, and then to die. Worst of all, people had lost their friendship with God. By disobeying Him, all people lost the chance to walk face to face in the garden with God.

God's heart was broken. He was very sad that the people had left Him. But God did not leave people. That day God made a promise. He promised to make a way to take away sin. God promised that He would give people a new opportunity to love Him, because He has never stopped loving us. God promised a Savior, somebody that would come to save the world from sin. Every day since those first days, God has been working to take away sin and bring people back to Him.

The Savior God promised is named Jesus. Jesus is both God's son and God himself, something so wonderful it is hard for us to even understand. Jesus came and made a way for all sins to be taken away. Jesus gave up His own life and allowed Himself to be killed on a cross. Then three days later, He came back to life. Since Jesus had never sinned, His death became the punishment for our sin. Now all people can have the opportunity to accept Jesus as their Savior. If you would like to know how to do so, 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 any thing 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. Crafts and supplies will be provided while you are at Mission Arlington®.

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:

Day One

English

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17 (NLT)

Spanish

Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que cree en El, no se pierda, mas tenga vida eterna. Porque Dios no envió a su Hijo al mundo para juzgar al mundo, sino para que el mundo sea salvo por El. Juan 3:16-17 (LBLA)

Wrap Up

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

The last thing you will do before games and snacks is to review the memory verse and the day's lesson. Have 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.

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

S U M M A R Y

- **Large Group**
 - Songs
 - Puppets
 - Testimony
 - Memory Verse: Loud and Soft
- **Small Group**
 - Story: God Saves His People from Slavery
 - Theme: God Sends Instructions to Help People Know How to Live
 - *Highlights for discussion:*
 - God promised that a Savior would come
 - God’s word contains instructions and rules to help our lives
 - The instructions help us, but do not take away our sins. Only the Savior can take away our sins.
 - God takes care of those who follow Him.
 - Scripture to support today’s story: Exodus 1:8-14, 5:1-2, 7:1-12:42, 14:5-31, 19:1-20:17, Romans 7:7-8:4
 - Craft
 - Memory Verse Review
- **Large Group**
 - Story review questions

Pre-Rainbow Express® Gathering

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

Song Time/Puppets

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

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

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

Testimony

The theme for this whole week of Rainbow Express® is *For God so Loved . . .* Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that God loved the world so much that He sent a Savior. Obviously, the decision to follow Christ is an incredibly personal decision. It is important that the children

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

and youth that 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 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 God loves us and shares that love with us for children that are attending for the first time. Take time to sum up the previous day’s stories and themes. Be sure each day to introduce the theme for the day’s story. The stories for the whole week are intended to show how God has worked throughout time to bring people closer to Him. Help the children understand that God knows that we have done wrong things but loves us anyway. God wants desperately for all people to know Him and accept Christ as their Savior. When you have finished this introduction, divide the children into small groups so that they can learn their story.

Small Group Story Time

The text provided here is to serve as a guide for you while you tell the story. Read it through several times and be able to tell it from memory. It is not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. Your goal is to be able to 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: God Saves His People from Slavery

God was sad that people sinned. Our sin made us leave the perfect garden that God had made for us. Our sin destroyed our friendship with God. Our sin brought all kinds of trouble into the world God had made.

God did not stop loving people after they sinned. In fact, the very same day that people had to leave the garden, God promised a plan to get rid of sin. God promised that he would send a Savior, somebody that would come to save the world by taking away our sins.

Before God sent a Savior, He had to show people that they needed one. God wants to take away sin, but first He had to show people why. All people have problems because of sin, but not all people knew that God could help them. Some people tried not to listen to God. They sinned more and more, and brought more and more problems for themselves.

God picked one family in which to begin His plan. This family grew into a great people called the Hebrews. God promised the Hebrews that if they would listen to Him, He would help them. God promised to bring help to the whole world through the Hebrews.

Day Two

Many thousands of years ago, the Hebrew people went through a time when it was difficult to find food in their own land. They traveled away from their own homes to the country of Egypt, where there was plenty of food. At first, living in Egypt was a great help to the Hebrews. But over the years, things changed. A new king in Egypt did not like the Hebrews. He did not like that they lived in his land. He killed many of the Hebrews and made the rest work as slaves for him.

The Hebrews suffered much under the Egyptian king. They cried to God. They asked Him to help rescue them from being slaves in Egypt. God heard the Hebrews' request. He promised to save them from slavery. What the Hebrews did not realize was that saving them from Egypt was a part of God's even bigger plan to save all people from sin.

God told two men named Moses and Aaron to go to the Egyptian king. Moses told the king that God wanted the Hebrews to be set free. "God says to let my people go," Moses said. God did amazing things around Moses and Aaron to prove that He really sent them to the king. Aaron threw a stick on the ground and it turned into a snake. Aaron picked the snake up, and it turned back into a stick. Aaron touched the river with his stick, and all the water turned to blood. God did these and many other incredible things so that the Egyptian people would know who God was. God wanted them to listen to Him and let the people go.

The Egyptian king refused to listen to God. He would not allow the Hebrews to leave, even when God did things like make the sky dark for days or send a storm so powerful that the hail turned to fire when it struck the ground. Finally God sent the people one last message: "Tonight about midnight the firstborn in each home will die."

He told Moses to give the people instructions. Those that trusted in God and followed His instructions would have a way to save their families. Any family that trusted God should eat a lamb that night. When they cooked the lamb, they should put some of the blood from the lamb above the doors of their homes. When God came to Egypt that night, He would see the houses that believed Him and put the blood above their doors. The families in those homes would be safe. God would use that blood to save those people from death.

That night, everything happened just as God said. All over Egypt people began to cry because they had lost members of their family. Only in the homes where the people had listened to God was there no death. God had used the blood from the lamb to save His people. The Egyptian king finally believed what Moses said. That same day he let all of the Hebrew people go free.

The Hebrew people were excited to leave. They took their families, their belongings, and their animals and started the long, long journey home. They were full of joy that God had saved them. Not long after the Hebrews left Egypt, the king changed his mind. He wished that he had not let all of his slaves leave him. The king sent his army to bring the Hebrews back. The Hebrews were terrified when they saw the army following them. They were sure that they would be killed by the Egyptians.

God saw that the army was chasing the Hebrews. He told the Hebrews to go stand in front of a huge sea. The Hebrews obeyed, but they did not understand why. Some of them thought it would be impossible for God to save them now. When the Egyptians got close to the Hebrew camp, God sent a wind so powerful that it pushed the sea's water out of the way. The Hebrew people walked through the sea on dry land, with walls of water on both sides. When the Egyptians tried to follow them, God stopped the wind and the water came crashing back down on top of their army. God had saved His people once again.

God led the Hebrew people out of Egypt. He began to lead them on the long journey back to their homes. One day God stopped the Hebrew people at the foot of a mountain called Sinai. God told all the people to wait at the bottom of the mountain while He brought Moses up on the mountain to talk to him. On the mountain God taught Moses how to teach the people how they should live. He gave Moses a list that would help the people to stay away from sin and stay friends with God. The list helped the people know what they should do and what they should not do. It gave God's rules like "Be respectful to your father and mother" and "Do not tell lies against people". Of all the instructions that God gave, the two most important were for the people to love Him and to love each other. God told Moses to make sure all the people followed these instructions.

As the many years passed, God continued to teach the people how to follow His words. Sometimes the people listened to God and things went well with them. Even though they still had the problems of sin, God helped to make the problems less as they obeyed His instructions. Sometimes the people did not listen to God. Then as

Day Two

their sins became more and more, their problems got worse and worse too. Always, though, no matter how bad things became, God would always let the people know that if they would return to Him and follow Him, He would help them again.

God's instructions helped all of the people. Over time, they began to think that these instructions must be God's whole plan to save them. They did not understand how wonderful God's plan really was. God's instructions helped them know how to sin less, but God had an even better plan: a plan to take away people's sins. God had been planning this from the beginning, ever since that very first sin in the garden.

God promised that a Savior would come. This Savior would use his own blood to save people from sin. Just like God had used the lamb's blood to save the Hebrews from the Egyptians, the Savior's blood would make a way to save people from their sins. The Savior's name was Jesus, God's own son. God sent Jesus to save us. He left Heaven and came to Earth. During Jesus' time on Earth He never sinned. Then He gave up His life for all people by allowing Himself to be killed on a cross. Since Jesus had never sinned, His death became the punishment for all sin. On the third day after His death, Jesus came back to life. Now God invites all people to let Jesus be their Savior. If you would like to know how Jesus can save you, please ask us. We would love to tell you about God's plan to save you.

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 any thing 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. Crafts and supplies will be provided while you are at Mission Arlington®.

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

Day Two

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17 (NLT)

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Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que cree en El, no se pierda, mas tenga vida eterna. Porque Dios no envió a su Hijo al mundo para juzgar al mundo, sino para que el mundo sea salvo por El. Juan 3:16-17 (LBLA)

Wrap Up

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

The last thing you will do before games and snacks is to review the memory verse and the day's lesson. Have 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.

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

S U M M A R Y

- **Large Group**
 - Songs
 - Puppets
 - Testimony
 - Memory Verse: Teams
- **Small Group**
 - Story: The Savior Comes
 - Theme: God's Only Son Jesus Died and Rose Again to Save the World
 - *Highlights for discussion:*
 - Jesus was God's son
 - Jesus was the Savior God had promised
 - Accepting Jesus as our Savior is the *only* way to go to Heaven
 - Jesus took the punishment for our sins willingly because He loves us
 - Scripture to support today's story: John 10:22-38, 12:12-19, 18:1-19:42, Luke 24:1-10, Romans 6:3-11, 10:5-13
 - Craft
 - Memory Verse Review
- **Large Group**
 - Story review questions

Pre-Rainbow Express® Gathering

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

Song Time/Puppets

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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 of Rainbow Express® is *For God so Loved . . .* Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that God loved the world so much that He sent a

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Day Three

Savior. Obviously, the decision to follow Christ is an incredibly personal decision. It is important that the children and youth that 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 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 God loves us and shares that love with us for children that are attending for the first time. Take time to sum up the previous day’s stories and themes. Be sure each day to introduce the theme for the day’s story. The stories for the whole week are intended to show how God has worked throughout time to bring people closer to Him. Help the children understand that God knows that we have done wrong things but loves us anyway. God wants desperately for all people to know Him and accept Christ as their Savior. When you have finished this introduction, divide the children into small groups so that they can learn their story.

Small Group Story Time

The text provided here is to serve as a guide for you while you tell the story. Read it through several times and be able to tell it from memory. It is not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. Your goal is to be able to 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: The Savior Comes

For thousands of years God had been working His plan to save people from their sins. Ever since Adam and Eve sinned for the first time in the garden, God promised that a Savior would come to take away the sin of the world.

God sent His instructions and laws to the Hebrews to help people while we waited for the Savior to come. These instructions helped people know how they could sin less and be closer to a friendship with God. The laws were helpful to people, but the Savior that God promised would come from the Hebrews would be something much more wonderful.

Two thousand years ago the time finally came for God to carry out the next step of His plan. God sent His Son Jesus to Earth. Jesus, who had forever been with God, left His perfect home in Heaven to be born as a human baby just like you or me.

Jesus lived His life on earth differently than anybody else before or since: He never sinned. Not once did Jesus ever do or say anything that went against what God wanted. Instead, Jesus lived His life teaching people

Day Three

that God loved them.

Jesus gathered a group of people that traveled with Him everywhere He went. Jesus walked from town to town, telling people about God's love. He reminded people that God is our loving King who wants to save us from our sins so that we can love Him and love each other.

As Jesus traveled around, He did amazing things to show people that He truly was God's son. He made blind people able to see and deaf people able to hear. He turned five small loaves of bread and two fish into enough food for thousands of people. He spoke to the wind and the rain and they obeyed what He said. Jesus walked on water, cured diseases, and even raised dead people back to life.

Everywhere He went, people began to become excited about Jesus and His message. Some people were very happy. They were glad to hear that God loved them, even though they had sinned. They were happy to know that God wanted to take away their sins. They believed that Jesus was the Savior that God had been promising for so long.

Other people were not happy. They did not like Jesus' message. They did not believe that Jesus was God's Son. They were very angry about everything that Jesus did and taught.

Do you know why these people were so angry? They were people that for a long time had followed God's instructions. They made following the rules the most important thing in their lives. In fact, they worked so hard at following the rules that they forgot the reason for the rules in the first place.

As Jesus continued to teach, more and more people came to listen to His message. Everywhere Jesus went huge crowds followed Him. The more popular Jesus' teaching became, the angrier His enemies were.

One Sunday, after about three years, Jesus was traveling into Jerusalem, the capital of the country. The crowds were excited to see Him coming. Thousands of people crowded into the streets to watch Jesus ride into the city on a donkey. They waved palm leaves in the air and shouted and sang. Some people took off their jackets and laid them in the streets so that Jesus' donkey would have a soft path to walk on. Many people wanted to make Jesus the king of the whole country.

As all the people cheered for Jesus, it seemed that everything was going well for Jesus, but He knew the truth. Jesus knew that He did not leave Heaven to become a king on Earth. Jesus came to die. He came to be punished for sins that were not His. Jesus came to die for what we have done.

Jesus' enemies were furious. They could not believe that so many people came to see Jesus. They were angry that so many people loved the man that they hated. That day they decided to look for a way to get rid of Jesus.

Thursday of that week was a special holiday. It was the day that the people in Jesus' country celebrated what God had done long ago to save the people from Egypt. That night the people were going to eat lamb's meat to remember the blood that had saved them so many years ago. They did not know that Jesus was planning that night to give His blood to save us from something even worse than being slaves in another country.

After dinner Jesus took His friends to a garden. He spent most of the night talking to His Father, God. Jesus knew that soldiers were coming to take Him. He told His Father that He would do whatever God wanted Him to do.

During the night the soldiers came to arrest Jesus. They took Him back to the home of His enemies. All night long His enemies beat Him, made fun of Him, and told lies about Him to find reasons to kill Him. The next morning, they took Jesus in front of the governor.

The governor could not find anything wrong that Jesus had done. He wanted to let Jesus go. Jesus' enemies brought a huge crowd to the governor's court. They screamed that they wanted Jesus to die. Finally the governor was so afraid of the crowd that he gave Jesus to them.

Jesus was hurt badly. They beat His back with long pieces of leather that had sharp rocks or metal in them. They pushed a crown made of twisted thorn branches down on to His head. They hit Jesus with sticks and their fists. Finally they put a huge wooden log across His shoulders. They forced Him to carry it all the way out of the city and up a hill that the people called Skull Hill.

The soldiers killed Jesus in a terrible way called crucifixion. They laid the great log that Jesus carried across another one in the shape of a T to make something called a cross. They pushed Jesus down on the cross and spread His arms out. They hammered huge nails into His wrists and feet to hold Him to the cross. Last, they stood the cross up so that Jesus was hanging on it in front of all the people.

Day Three

Being crucified was a terrible way to die. The nails tore into Jesus' hands and feet. The wood of the cross hurt His back. The thorns cut His head. It was very hard to breathe. For six hours Jesus hung on that cross, feeling so much pain so that He could take the punishment for all the bad things that we have done. At the end of six hours, Jesus called out, "It is finished." As His friends and enemies looked on, Jesus died.

Some of Jesus' followers took His body down from the cross and cleaned it up. They wrapped His body in cloth and laid Him in a cave that was used as a tomb. Jesus' enemies rolled a giant round stone across the door of the cave so that nobody could come in. His enemies thought they would never see Jesus again.

The Sunday morning after Jesus died some women that believed He was God's son came to visit His body. When they got to the cave they found a huge surprise. The giant stone was rolled away. The soldiers that Jesus' enemies had put there to guard His body were unconscious. And the cave was empty!

The women were amazed and confused. They did not understand what had happened. They thought that maybe somebody had stolen Jesus' body. As the women stood there, two shining and mighty angels appeared. "Why are you looking for Jesus here with the dead?" The angels asked happily. "Jesus is not dead. He has returned to life, just like He said that He would. Quickly, go tell all of His followers that Jesus is alive!" The women ran off to tell Jesus' other followers.

Over the next forty days Jesus Himself visited many of His friends. He showed them that He really was alive. They saw the holes in His wrists and feet where the nails had been. Jesus followers were more excited than we can imagine. Jesus truly was the Son of God. He had died to take away our sins and then come back to life.

Jesus is the greatest part of God's plan to save us. His death and return made it possible for all people to accept Him. He is the Savior that God promised so long, long ago. Now all people in the world have the opportunity to let Jesus be their Savior too.

After visiting His friends for forty days, Jesus met many of them on top of a mountain. He gave them one new instruction. "Go to the whole world," Jesus said "and tell them about Me and everything I have taught you. And don't be afraid, because I will be with you wherever you go, even until the end of the world."

God's plan to save us was perfect. From the very first sin He had a Savior ready to save the world. Jesus can be your Savior too. Just ask us if you would like to know how to ask Him to save you.

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 any thing 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 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.

Day Three

Salvation Necklaces

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

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

Memory Verse Activity

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

English

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17 (NLT)

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Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que cree en El, no se pierda, mas tenga vida eterna. Porque Dios no envió a su Hijo al mundo para juzgar al mundo, sino para que el mundo sea salvo por El. Juan 3:16-17 (LBLA)

Wrap Up

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

The last thing you will do before games and snacks is to review the memory verse and the day's lesson. Have 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.

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.*

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.

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 bracelet.

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

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

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

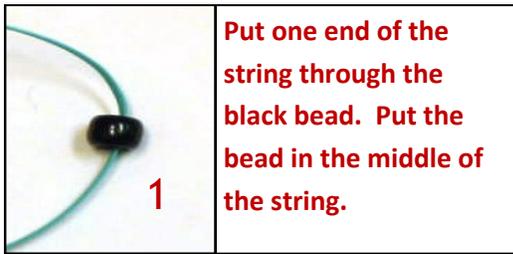
GREEN- This reminds us that we are to grow as a Christian. In order to grow in our relationship with God, we need to pray, read the Bible, and hang out with other Christians by coming to Bible Study.

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

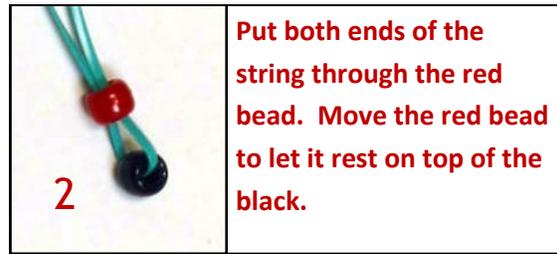
YELLOW- This reminds us of Heaven! The Bible says that every person who has trusted Jesus to be his or her Savior will spend forever in Heaven with Him.

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

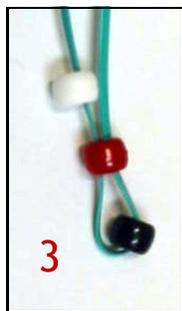
Day Three: Salvation Cross Necklace



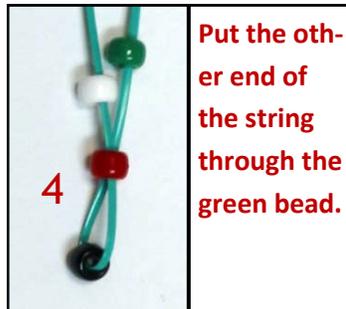
Put one end of the string through the black bead. Put the bead in the middle of the string.



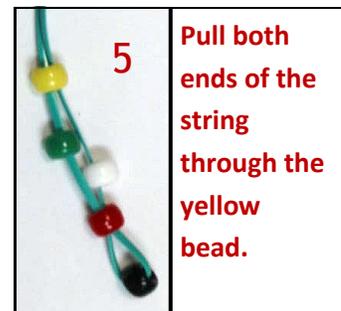
Put both ends of the string through the red bead. Move the red bead to let it rest on top of the black.



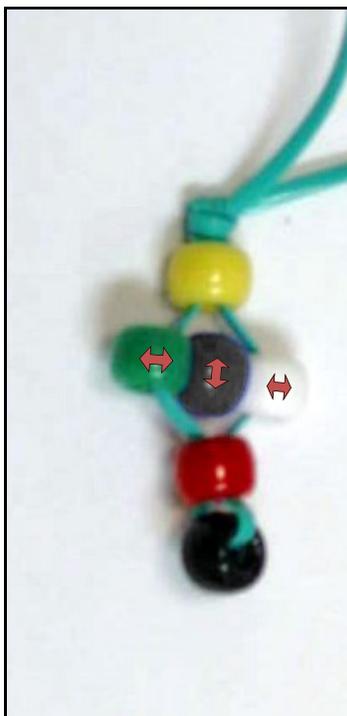
Put the white bead over one end of the string and let it fall to the red bead.



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



Pull both ends of the string through the yellow bead.



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

**dark /
oscuro**

Sometimes I do bad things that make God sad.

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

**red /
rojo**

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

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

**white /
blanco**

Jesus can take away all the bad things I do.

Jesús puede quitar todas las cosas malas que hago.

**green
/ verde**

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

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

**yellow /
amarillo**

One day I will be with Jesus in Heaven.

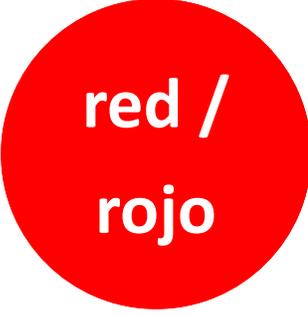
Un día estaré en El Cielo con Jesús.



dark /
oscuro

... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...Romans 3:23

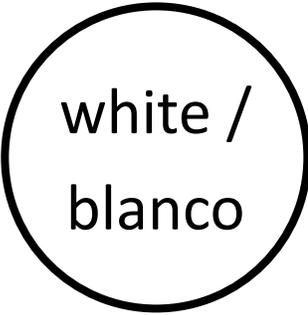
Pues todos han pecado y están privados de la gloria de Dios. Romanos 3:23



red /
rojo

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

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



white /
blanco

When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

*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*



green
/ verde

You are children that God dearly loves. So follow His example. Ephesians 5:1

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



yellow /
amarillo

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that 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

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

S U M M A R Y

- **Large Group**
 - Songs
 - Puppets
 - Testimony
 - Memory Verse: Next Word Relay
- **Small Group**
 - Story: Christians Spread the Message of the Savior
 - Theme: God Wants to Help all Christians Share His Plan of Salvation
 - *Highlights for discussion:*
 - Jesus commanded that we share His message
 - God has a plan for each Christian's life
 - When we become Christians God can change us
 - God will provide and protect so that we are able to live out His plan
 - Scripture to support today's story: Acts 9:1-17, Romans 1:1-5, Acts 20:18-27, 27:1-28:22
 - Craft
 - Memory Verse Review
- **Large Group**
 - Story review questions

Pre-Rainbow Express® Gathering

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

Song Time/Puppets

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

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

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

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.

Testimony

The theme for this whole week of Rainbow Express® is *For God so Loved . . .* Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that God loved the world so much that He sent a Savior. Obviously, the decision to follow Christ is an incredibly personal decision. It is important that the children and

Day Four

youth that 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 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 God loves us and shares that love with us for children that are attending for the first time. Take time to sum up the previous day’s stories and themes. Be sure each day to introduce the theme for the day’s story. The stories for the whole week are intended to show how God has worked throughout time to bring people closer to Him. Help the children understand that God knows that we have done wrong things but loves us anyway. God wants desperately for all people to know Him and accept Christ as their Savior. When you have finished this introduction, divide the children into small groups so that they can learn their story.

Small Group Story Time

The text provided here is to serve as a guide for you while you tell the story. Read it through several times and be able to tell it from memory. It is not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. Your goal is to be able to 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: Paul

God made us because He wanted to have a close, loving relationship with us. He made a perfect place for us to live and walked and talked with us every day. The very first two people broke God’s perfect plan. They disobeyed what God said. They sinned, and that sin pushed them out of the garden and away from God. Since that day, every single person that has lived has had to deal with the problem of sin.

God sent people instructions on how they should live. These instructions taught people how to live like God wanted. People learned that the most important thing would be to love God and love each other. God’s words were a gift that helped people know how He wanted them to live.

God’s greatest gift to people was His own Son, Jesus. Jesus came as the Savior that God had been promising for so long. Jesus’ death and return to life made it possible for all people to have their sins taken away. At last, all people had a way to follow God and once again be friends with Him.

Jesus’ last message before He returned to His home in Heaven was that He wants all people to know how to

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be saved. Jesus told the people that followed Him to go into all the world and tell what He taught them.

Right away, Jesus' followers began to obey His final instruction. They started telling people all around them how Jesus could take away their sins. God helped His followers, who were called Christians, to spread the message. He changed the lives of people that followed Him. Christians that used to be shy became brave. Those that were mean before they knew Jesus became kind. Some Christians used to live lives that were full of sin before they accepted Jesus. Once Jesus was their Savior, God helped them to change into exactly the kind of person He created them to be.

God has a plan for each person that lives; some special reason that He made them exactly like they are. In those early days, God chose people to travel all around the world and share the message of Jesus. One person that God chose was Saul. Before Saul became a Christian, he was a terrible person. In fact, he put other Christians in jail simply because they believed in Jesus. God knew all that, but He also knew that He had created Saul to tell people about Jesus. God knew that He could change Saul's whole life, and He did. Saul became such a different person that he even changed his name to Paul.

God had Paul tell thousands of people about Jesus. He traveled to far away places and to people that spoke many different languages to teach them that God loves them and wants to save them. God used Paul to do miracles like healing sick people so that everybody would listen to Him. God also protected Paul from enemies, even rescuing Paul from jail when he was locked up by people who did not follow Jesus.

After many years of teaching about Jesus, some of Paul's enemies had him arrested again. It was decided that Paul would be sent to see the emperor. The emperor would decide what to do to Paul. Paul was put on a ship to be sent with many other prisoners to the capital city. The ship had almost 300 people on board: the prisoners, the soldiers that guarded them, and the sailors. It was a long, dangerous journey to the capital, but God had a plan to protect Paul. He wanted Paul to tell people in the capital about the Savior Jesus.

During the journey, the ship was hit by a terrible storm. There was so much wind and rain that the people on the ship did not see the sun or stars for many days. The wind was so strong that the ship could not continue in the direction they were trying to travel. The sailors began to throw equipment off the boat, just to try to make it lighter. After two weeks, the storm was still blowing. The people with Paul on the ship believed that they were going to die. They were so afraid that they stopped eating.

During the night, God sent a message to Paul. God promised that Paul would arrive safely in the capital. He also promised that not one person in the boat would die in the storm. The next morning Paul told everybody what God had said. He encouraged them to be brave and to eat.

Late one night the sailors could tell that the ship was finally coming close to land. Soon, the water was not deep enough for the boat. It became stuck in sand a little ways from an island. Paul, the other prisoners, the sailors, and the soldiers swam or floated on broken pieces of the ship until they reached the island, which was called Malta. God helped every one of them to arrive safely through the storm, just as He had told Paul that He would.

The people of Malta took good care of Paul and the other people from the broken ship. They built a fire to keep them warm and gave them plenty of food to eat. Paul was helping pick up wood for the fire. Suddenly, a snake jumped out of the wood he carried and bit him on the hand. The people of Malta thought Paul would quickly die. Instead, God protected Paul from the snake. Paul just shook his hand and the snake fell off.

Everybody was amazed at the way that God had cared for Paul. God saved him from the storm, kept him safe when the ship crashed, and guarded him from the snake. God even gave Paul the power to heal the sick father of one man who lived on the island. Soon it was time to leave again. God took care of Paul all the way to the capital city, where he was able to spend two whole years telling people there about Jesus, our Savior.

God had a perfect plan for Paul. He changed Paul's life, then kept him safe for many years so that Paul could teach Jesus' message. Aren't God's plans amazing? From the very beginning of time, from the very first two people, all the way up to today, God has been working to save people from their sins so that they can have the loving relationship with Him that He created them for. We are grateful that God loves us so much that, even though we sin and disobey Him, He sent Jesus to save us. That's how much God loved the world.

God's plan is still that Christians should tell others about Him. Just like Paul, God has a plan for you. He wants you to help other people to know about Him, too. God loves you, just as He loved Paul. He wants to help you know His perfect plan for your life. He wants you to know Jesus as your Savior. He wants you to tell others, too.

Day Four

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 any thing 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. Crafts and supplies will be provided while you are at Mission Arlington®.

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

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17 (NLT)

Spanish

Porque de tal manera amó Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que cree en El, no se pierda, mas tenga vida eterna. Porque Dios no envió a su Hijo al mundo para juzgar al mundo, sino para que el mundo sea salvo por El. Juan 3:16-17 (LBLA)

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

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Day Four

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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.

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



210 West South Street, Arlington, TX 76010
www.missionarlington.org | 817-277-6620

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