



May—June  
2016



Rainbow  
Express<sup>®</sup>  
Mission Trip

Curriculum and  
Planning Packet

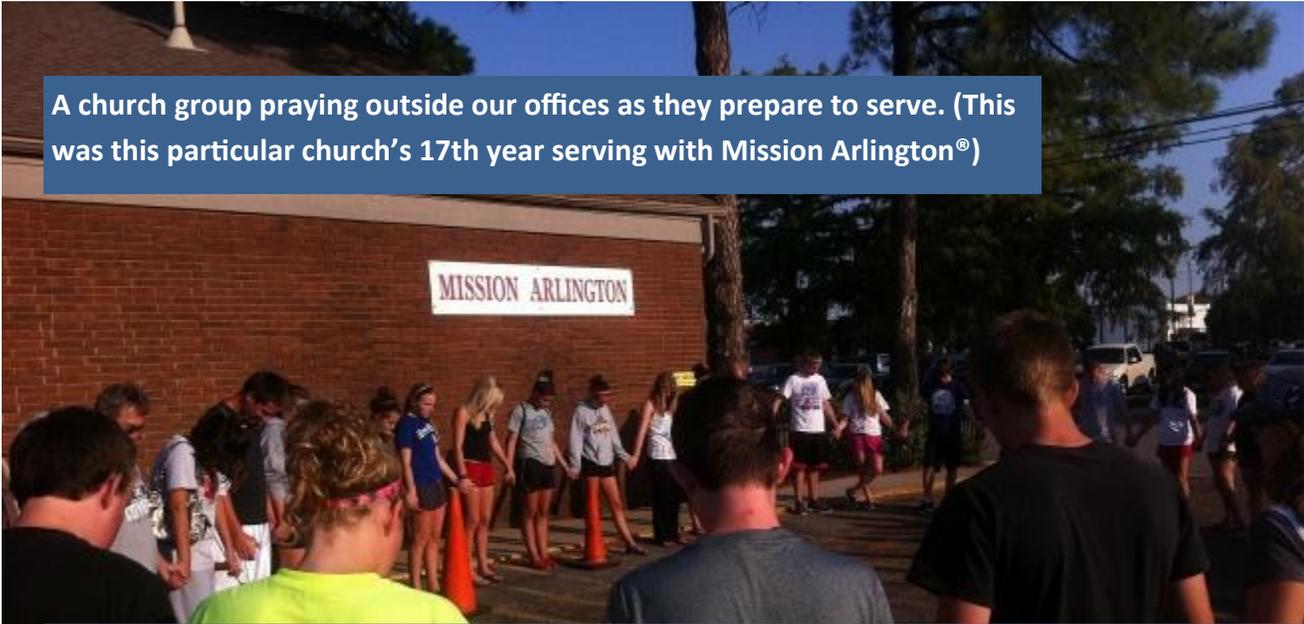
We are so grateful that the Lord is sending your group to Mission Arlington® / Mission Metroplex® for a 2016 May/June Rainbow Express® Mission Trip! Our team is praying faithfully for you as you prepare spiritually and logistically to serve with us here.

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.

- **Heather Young, Steven Burgin, and Jim Burgin** 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 [hyoung@missionarlington.org](mailto:hyoung@missionarlington.org), [sburgin@missionarlington.org](mailto:sburgin@missionarlington.org), or [jim@missionarlington.org](mailto:jim@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](mailto: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](mailto: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 morn-

ing 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

## SCHEDULE: Weeks with a Monday in June

Monday—Thursday

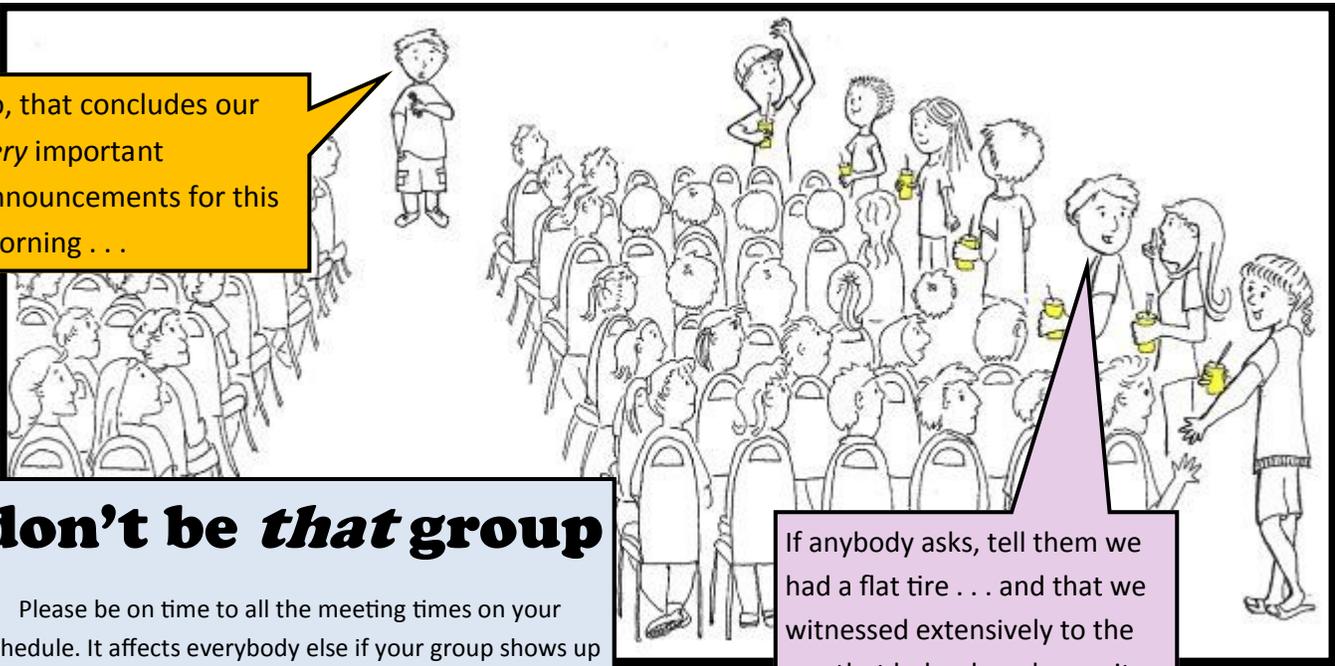
- 8:30 Meet at Mission Arlington® for morning worship and devotional time
- 9:45 Morning Rainbow Express® groups leave for their site
- 10:30 Morning Rainbow Express® begins
- NOON Morning Rainbow Express® ends. Clean up, walk children home, etc., then take a lunch break.
- 1:30 Meet for worship and announcements
- 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.

**Note—if your group is here one of these weeks, each Rainbow Express® team will lead two sites, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.**

## SCHEDULE: Weeks with a Monday in May

Monday—Thursday

- 8:30 Meet for morning worship and devotional time
- 9:30 Devotional time dismisses
- 9:45 Begin work projects assignment (work projects will last from 10:00-1:00)
- 1:00 Take a lunch break.
- 2:15 Meet for worship and announcements
- 3:15 Depart for Rainbow Express®
- 4:00 Rainbow Express® begins
- 5:30 Rainbow Express® ends. Clean up and walk kids home.
- 6:00 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** people that may come through your activities or facilities 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.

## 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 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.

## If you are staying in our accommodations:

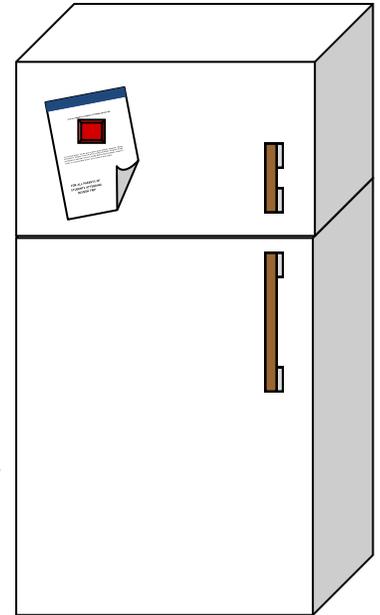
(Prepare as if you were coming to a completely empty facility)

- 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 MAY/JUNE MISSION TRIP

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



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



# Preparing for Rainbow Express<sup>®</sup>

*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<sup>®</sup> is Mission Arlington’s version of a backyard Bible Club.

Your group will be leading one or more Rainbow Express<sup>®</sup> program 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®)*

<b>Adult Sponsor(s):</b>	
<b>Team Leader:</b>	
<b>Large Group Leader:</b>	
<b>Song Leader:</b>	
<b>Memory Verse Teacher:</b>	
<b>Puppet Wrangler:</b>	
<b>Game Leader:</b>	
<b>Attendance Taker:</b>	
<b>Youth Leader:</b>	
<b>Small Group Partner pairs:</b> <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](mailto: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 May/June 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

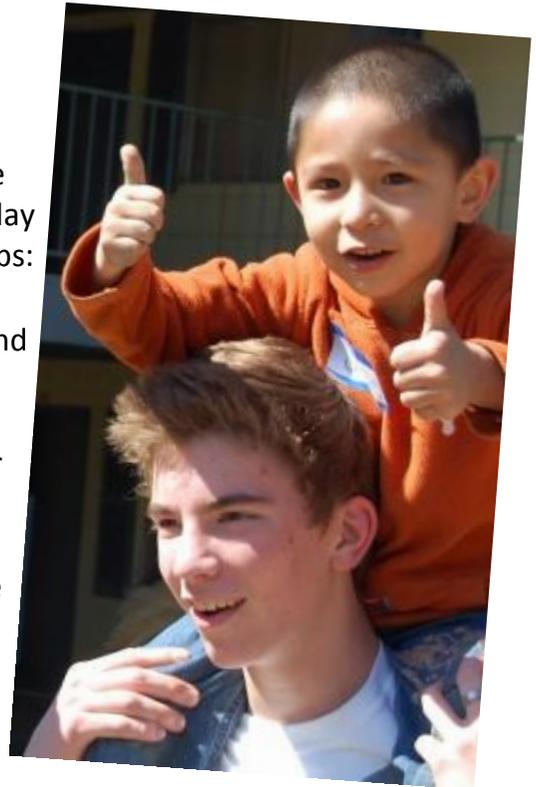
## DRESS CODE

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

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

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

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



## CONDUCT GUIDELINES

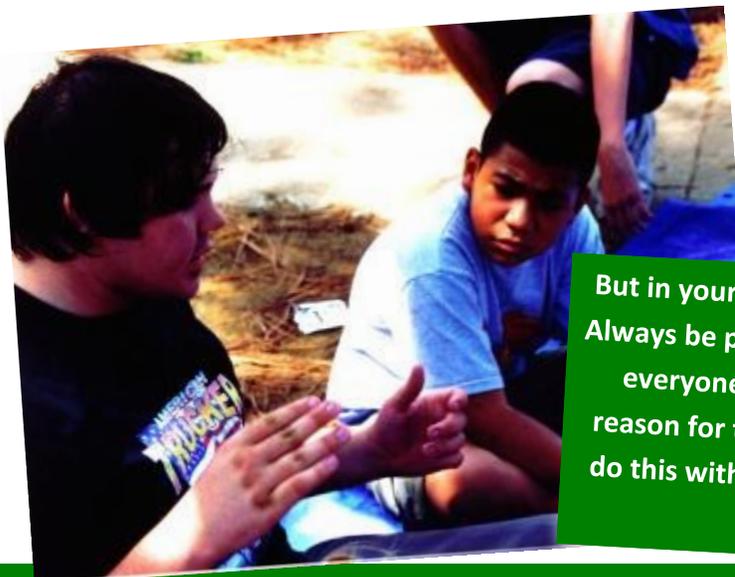
- **Be focused on the most important thing:** Mission work is full of surprises. God has a specific plan for you, and for the many lives He will use you to touch. The best preparation for this experience is spiritual. Keep reading your Bible daily, both before you come, and while you are here. Make sure 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. There is no housekeeping staff. So, help clean up spills, take out trash, and generally be clean and neat. (For example, don't use sidewalk chalk at Rainbow Express®. It leaves work for apartment staff to wash it off.)
- **Help us present a good image to everyone** that may come through your activities or facilities 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.

# 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 18<sup>th</sup> century garbanzo bean farming techniques, the children will not care. If you are excited about what Christ has done in your life, the children will be too.
- **Be Excited**—Sometimes there is a temptation to think that your personal testimony may not be as interesting as somebody else’s. Remember that we never need to compare our relationship with Christ to another. It took just as much of Jesus’ sacrifice to save us as it did any other human being on the planet. Be excited and grateful for what God did in your life, whether it happened as an adult in prison or a five-year-old in Sunday School.
- **Be Prayerful**—Like everything else you do this week, sharing your testimony must be bathed in prayer. Ask God to give you the right words and demeanor. Ask Him to prepare the hearts of the people that will be hearing.



**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 May/June 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 on 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.)

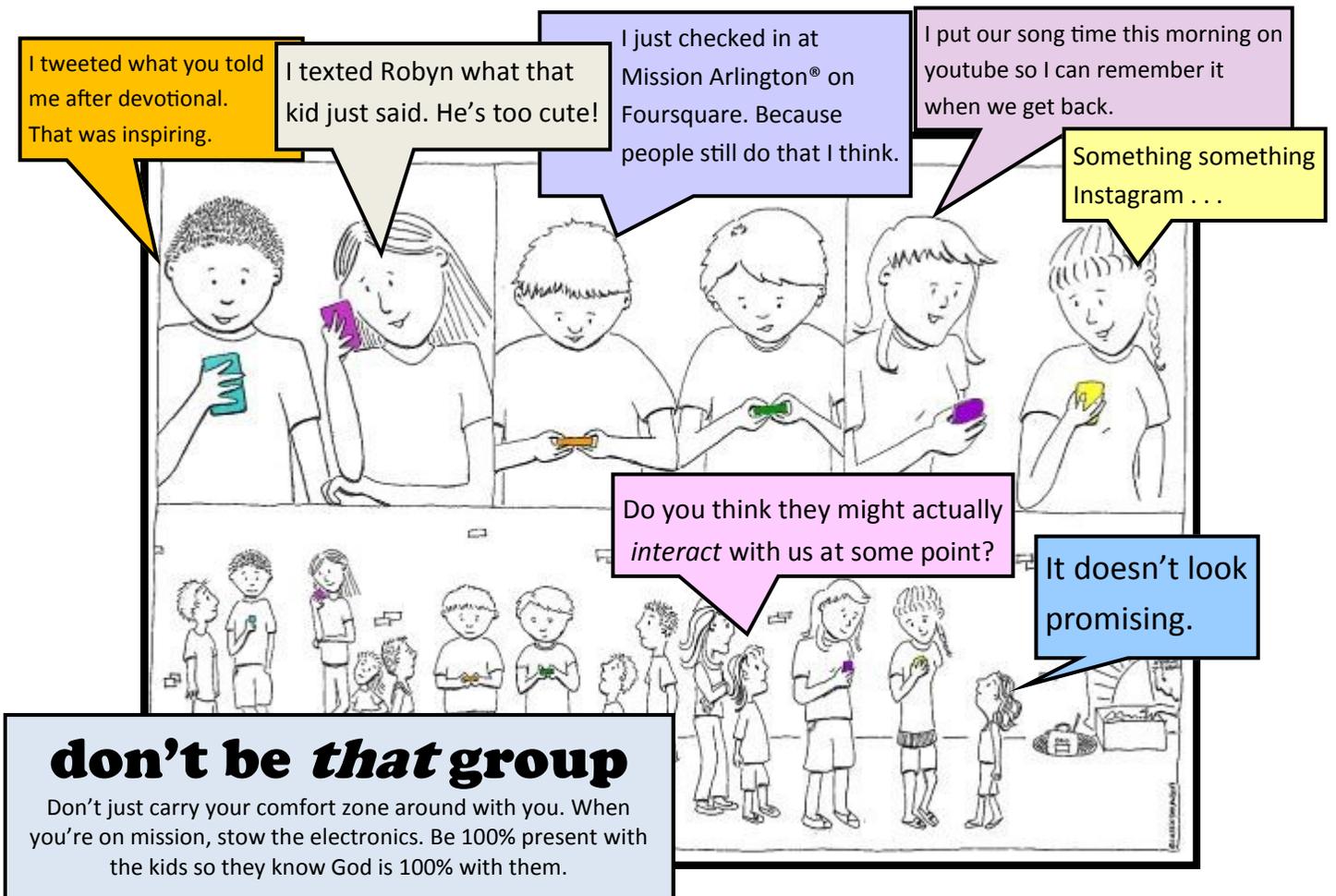
- ◆ Each small group team will share the day's Bible Story while in their small group.
- ◆ Take this time after the story to pray with the children in your small group. Ask them for things they would like to pray about. Tell God how awesome He is. Ask Him to help you and the children in your small group 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 necklaces. 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.

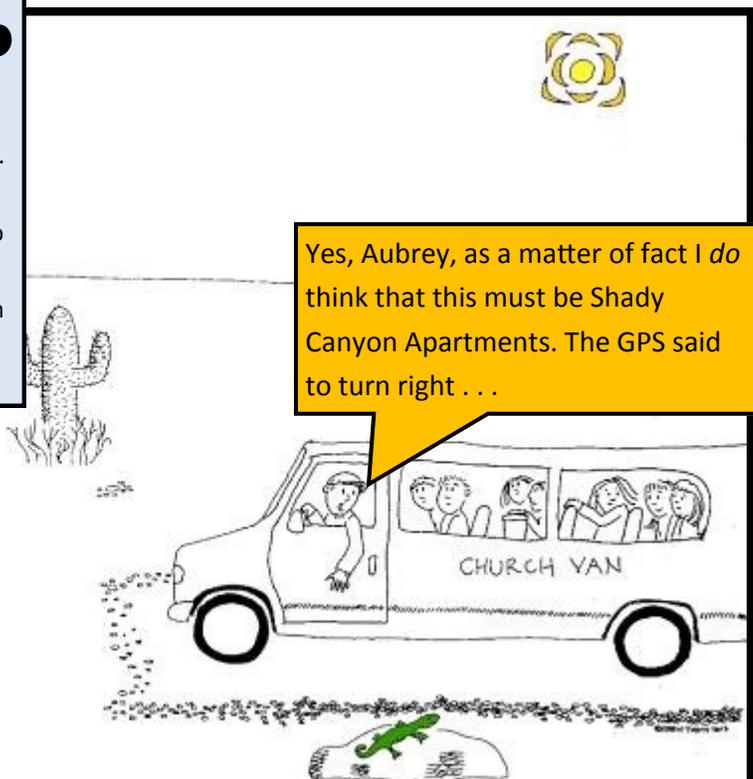


## Adult Team Leader / Sponsor

- ◆ 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. We once 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:

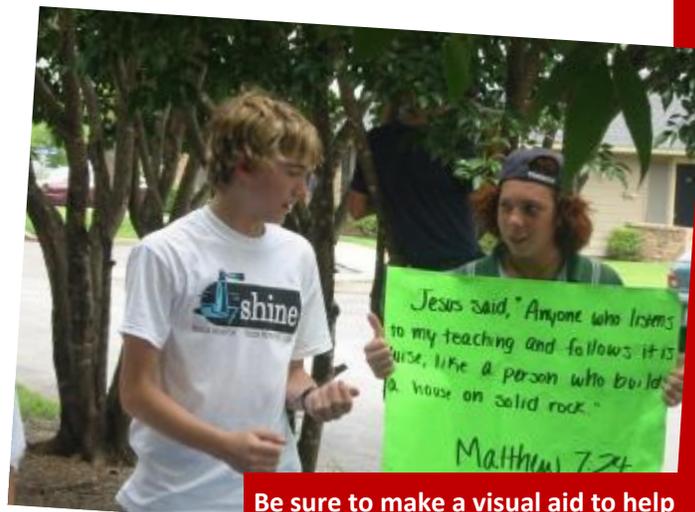
“I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future.” Jeremiah 29:11

“Porque yo sé los planes que tengo para ustedes” --dice el SEÑOR-- “planes de paz y no de mal, para darles un futuro y una esperanza.” Jeremías 29:11

**(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](http://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."
- ◆ 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.



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

## 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.

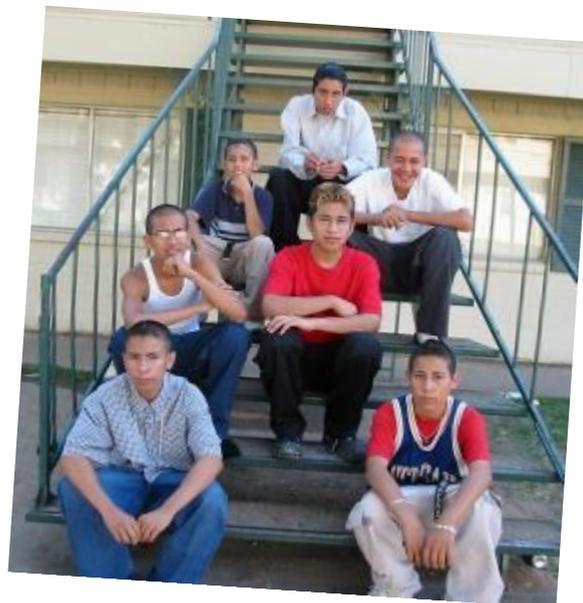
- PRAY! Youth have always been a part of Rainbow Express®, because groups like yours have always worked at making friends with the older students that hang out around your activities. However, we have really felt led to make a concentrated effort to expand the scope of Rainbow Express® to include youth. 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®:



<b>While the children are:</b>	<b>The youth leaders are:</b>
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.

# **2016 May/June Rainbow Express® Curriculum**

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

# Day One

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

S  
U  
M  
M  
A  
R  
Y

## Pre-Rainbow Express® Gathering

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

## Song Time/Puppets

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

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

Each day at this time you will have a brief puppet show. There are several simple ways to do this. Suggestions on how to use puppets to help teach children are on page 34.

## Testimony

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

## Memory Verse Activity

When the Large Group Leader finishes his opening time, the Memory Verse Teacher will come to the front to lead the memory verse activity. The large group memory verse activity for day one 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

**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

memory verse faster and faster. Try saying it slower and slower. Say it in “slow motion”, using exaggerated hand motions and deep slow motion voices.

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

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

*Below is a suggested narrative to help with the day’s introduction.*

Have you ever noticed how different we all are? If you look around, there are lots of people here, and we’re all a little different. We like different foods. We might enjoy different kinds of music. I might be really good at one subject at school, and you could be really good at another. My favorite color is probably different than yours. You might be taller or shorter than your best friend. Your sister might run faster than you, or your brother might play the trumpet better, but you might be the best reader. We all have different talents and different abilities.

Did you ever wonder how we all became so different? You can find the answer in the Bible. The Bible is a special book that God gave people to help us know him. The Bible teaches us that God created each of us. He designed you exactly how he wanted you to be. Each part of you, each talent, like, and dislike were designed by God. That makes each of us very, very special. That is very good news.

We know that God made us very special to be friends with Him. He designed us in His perfect plan to be His children. That is why He was so careful to make each of us. He was making us to be a part of His loving family. That is very good news too

Unfortunately, there is also some sad news. We have not done a good job sticking to God’s perfect design for us. God made us to be perfect friends with Him. Sadly, though, we’re not perfect at all. We have disobeyed what God asked us to do. We have broken His rules. We have not followed His instructions. God has a perfect plan for us, and we have not followed it. We are breaking God’s plan every time we think, say, or do something that is not what God wants. The Bible calls these wrong things we do *sin*. All of the problems in the world exist because people sin and mess up God’s perfect plan for us.

Thankfully, God does not give up on us when we sin. Instead, God made a way for us to start over. We know that we have all messed up: we have all sinned and turned away from God’s perfect plan. Jesus came to help put us back on track with God’s plan. He came to forgive us of our sins. If we let Him, Jesus will help us become the people God created us to be in the first place.

This week we’re going to learn how to let Jesus help us this way. We’re going to see how Jesus helped one man named Simon become the person God wanted him to be. We’ll talk about how Jesus can do the same thing for us.

## Small Group Story Time

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

# Day One

**Today's Story:** The Calling of Peter, Matthew 4:18-25, Mark 1:16-20

Long ago, God created the world. He wanted to fill it with people that He designed to be His family. God has a perfect plan for every single person on Earth. His plan is to help us be the wonderful friends of God that He made us to be.

Sadly, all of us have turned against God's plan. We have done, said, and thought things that God does not want. These things are called sins. Our sins mess up God's perfect plan for us.

God does not stop loving us when we sin. Instead, He made a new plan to save us from sin so we can follow His perfect plan again. God came to Earth as a human being named Jesus many years ago. Jesus made the way that we can be saved from sin.

While Jesus was here on Earth He taught people how to follow God's perfect plan. He showed them how God dearly loves all of us. He still wants us to be His children. He wants to remove our sins. Jesus came to bring us all back into God's perfect plan.

One day Jesus was walking along near a huge lake called the Sea of Galilee. In those days many people made their living on the lake fishing. They sailed in wooden boats and used big nets of rope to catch fish that they sold in the villages. As Jesus was walking He watched a man named Simon, along with his brother, hard at work in their boat a little way from the beach.

The brothers' whole lives involved fishing. They got their food from the sea. They made their money selling the fish that they caught. They spent their time repairing broken nets or working on the boat. But Jesus knew that God had much bigger plans for Simon than just fishing for all his life.

"Come, follow me," Jesus called to the brothers, "and I will make you fishers for people."

Can you imagine what Simon must have thought when he heard Jesus say that? Simon's whole life was being a fisherman. How could he just leave and follow Jesus? And what did Jesus mean when he said "fishers for people"? Simon may not have known what to think, but he was excited about the new life Jesus offered him. Right away Simon and Andrew dropped their nets, jumped out of the boat, and began to follow Jesus.

Think about that! Simon left his whole life to follow Jesus. He was excited about the new life Jesus offered him. What do you think about that choice? Is it hard to imagine deciding to start your life all over? What does it even mean to start a life over? We can't just be born again like a baby. So how does Jesus offer us a new life, just like He offered one to Simon?

We have a choice to make in our lives. We can try to run our lives ourselves, or we can accept God's help. When we try to run our lives by ourselves, we end up caught up in sin. We find ourselves doing things we wish we didn't do. Sometimes, we find it really hard to do the good things we know we should do. That's the mess that our lives become when we try to live them without help from God. That's the mess Simon's life would have been in without Jesus.

Instead of trying to live our lives alone and messing them up with sin, we can choose to accept the new life that Jesus offers us. When Jesus asked Simon to drop his nets, he was really asking Simon if Simon wanted to try to be in charge of his own life, or if he was ready to follow Jesus. Simon made the choice to follow Jesus. We can too. Just like Simon, we can say "Jesus, I know that I have messed up in my life. I'm ready to follow You instead. Please

# Day One

forgive my sins and let me follow You instead. I want to take the new life that You offer me.”

I’m sure it was kind of scary for Simon to decide to follow Jesus to become a “fisher for people”. The Bible tells us that Simon was glad he did. By deciding to follow Jesus’ new life instead of sticking with his old life, Simon got to become the person God created Him to be in the first place. Simon got to see Jesus do amazing things to show people God’s love and power.

The Bible says that Simon got to see as “Jesus went all over Galilee. There he taught . . . [and] preached the good news of God’s kingdom. He healed every illness and sickness the people had. News about Him spread all over . . . People brought to Him all who were ill with different kinds of sicknesses. Some were suffering great pain. Others were controlled by demons. Some were shaking wildly. Others couldn’t move at all. And Jesus healed all of them.”

Simon’s new life was certainly better than the old one. Jesus offers us a new life too. Jesus died on the cross to take away our sin. Then, on the third day, He came back to life. He invites all of us to follow Him, just like Simon did. We only have to accept the free gift of new life He offers us. If you would like to ask Jesus to take away your sin and give you a new life with Him, please ask us. We would love to help you know how.

*Each day you will close the story time with an invitation to accept Jesus. Say something like this:* God wants everybody to follow Him. The problem is our sin. Sin includes all the ways we disobey His instructions in what we think, do, or say. Sin means all the ways we treat God as less important than He really is and all the things we give the love and respect that God deserves. God still loves us, even though our hearts are sinful. 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:

*“I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future.” Jeremiah 29:11*

# Day One

*“Porque yo sé los planes que tengo para ustedes”--dice el SEÑOR--“planes de paz y no de mal, para darles un futuro y una esperanza.” Jeremías 29:11(Spanish)*

## **Wrap Up**

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

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

## **Game Time/Snacks**

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

# Day Two

## SUMMARY

- **Large Group**
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Memory Verse: Loud and Soft
- **Small Group**
  - Story: The Feeding of the 5,000 and Walking on the Water
    - Scripture for today's story: Matthew 14:13-36
  - 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.

Each day at this time you will have a brief puppet show. There are several simple ways to do this. Suggestions on how to use puppets to help teach children are on page 34.

### Testimony

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

### Memory Verse Activity

When the Large Group Leader finishes his opening time, the Memory Verse Teacher will come to the front to lead the memory verse activity. The large group memory verse activity for day two 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

**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

memory verse together. Slowly begin to increase the volume. Divide the children into two or more teams. Have them try saying the verse together as a team. See who can say it loud and who can say it soft. Try playing Telephone by having all the children sit in a circle. Have the verse travel around the circle by having each child whisper the next word in the verse to their neighbor.

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

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

*Below is a suggested narrative to help with the day's introduction.*

This week we're talking about the new life that Jesus offers us. We learned that God made each of us and loves us very much. We learned that we do bad things sometimes, things that the Bible calls sin. Sin messes up God's plan in our lives. God wants our lives to be full of love and joy and peace. Sin fills our lives up with anger, jealousy, and sadness. That's why Jesus came to save us from sin. He wants to give us new lives, lives that are a part of God's perfect plan for us.

It's a lot of fun to learn these stories about Jesus. The best part, though, is that what we're talking about this week is not just a bunch of stories. God is real. He really made us. He really loves us. He really wants us to know Him and be His friends. Sometimes we think about God like He's far away and the only thing we can do is learn the stories about Him. That's not true though. God is right here all around us and with us. He wants us to really get to know Him.

Think in your mind about your favorite famous person. It could be a singer, a sports star, an actor, or maybe a leader like a governor or a president. If that's your favorite famous person, you probably know a lot about them. But that's not the same as really knowing them, is it? *Knowing* somebody we really love is much better than just knowing *about* them. God doesn't just want us to know about Him. He wants us to really know Him.

In today's story we're going to see how Peter learned this. Peter had already left his old life to follow Jesus. He saw Jesus do some amazing things. Today we're going to see how Jesus taught Peter to really trust Him, no matter what. We'll see that a personal friendship with Jesus is so much greater than just knowing some facts about Him.

We know that Jesus offers us a new life. We know that new life is a part of God's perfect plan for us. We need to remember that as part of God's perfect plan He wants you to really know and trust Him. That's why Jesus came: to personally bring us unto a brand new life with God.

## **Small Group Story Time**

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

# Day Two

## Today's Story: The Feeding of the 5,000 and Walking on Water: Matthew 14:13-36

Yesterday we learned how Jesus called Simon to follow Him. Simon left behind his fishing boat and followed Jesus to a new life. We learned that Simon went everywhere with Jesus. He got to see Jesus do amazing things, things only God can do. Simon began to trust Jesus more and more. He became one of Jesus' closest friends. In fact, Jesus even gave Simon a new name. He called Simon *Peter*, which means, *Rock*. Jesus was saying that Simon was one of His most faithful followers, strong like a rock. Peter was one of the people Jesus chose to be His twelve lead followers, men called the disciples.

Once, Jesus had spent the whole day teaching a huge crowd of people and healing them. Soon, it was almost time for the sun to go down. Jesus' disciples wanted him to send the people away so that they could go buy food.

"They don't need to go away," Jesus told His disciples. "You give them something to eat instead."

The disciples didn't know what to do. They thought it was impossible to feed so many people. There were 5,000 people there, just counting the men. Think how many people it must have been with all the women and children included too! "We only have five small loaves of bread and two fish," the disciples told Jesus.

"Bring the food you have here to me," Jesus told the disciples. He had all the people sit down to eat. After praying for the food, Jesus did something amazing. He gave the bread and fish to the disciples, who began passing it out to all the people. But, no matter how many people the disciples gave food to, there was still more. Those five small loaves of bread and two fish kept multiplying and multiplying. The disciples kept giving out the food Jesus gave them until all of the thousands and thousands of people had eaten. It was a *miracle*, something only God can do. Jesus' disciples were amazed at what they saw. They could see that Jesus really was God, just like He said.

After cleaning up, Jesus told the disciples to get in the boat and cross to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Early in the morning, while it was still dark, the disciples in the boat became afraid because a windstorm was pounding powerful waves against the boat.

Suddenly, one of the disciples yelled "it's a ghost!". The disciples all looked out at the water and became very afraid. They could see somebody walking toward them, *walking on top of the water*.

"Be brave, it is I. Don't be afraid," a voice called. The disciples looked at each other in amazement. They recognized that voice! Jesus was coming to them, walking on top of the water.

Peter became very excited. He was amazed by Jesus' power. "Lord, if it's really you, let me walk out to you on the water," he said to Jesus.

Jesus told him to come. Peter stepped out of the boat and put his feet on the water. He didn't sink. The water held him up, just as if it were dry land. He began to walk toward Jesus. As Peter walked on the water, the wind and waves crashed around him. He began to be afraid so he stopped looking at Jesus and looked at the water. Peter became more and more scared and began to sink. "Lord, save me!" Peter yelled.

Jesus immediately reached out His hand and pulled Peter up. "Your trust is too small," Jesus told Peter. "Why did you doubt me?" They climbed into the boat together. As soon as they set foot in the boat, the wind stopped.

Jesus disciples bowed down in front of Him. They had seen that Jesus really was God. Only God could feed thousands of people with one small lunch. Only God could walk on top of the water and control the wind.

# Day Two

Yesterday we talked about Peter's choice to follow Jesus and accept a new life. Think about everything Peter had seen following Jesus: sick people cured, blind people seeing, hungry people fed, the message of God's love taught to everybody, and even a man walking on top of water. Peter became afraid of the wind and the waves, even though he knew Jesus could do all these amazing things. Why do you think he was scared? Why do you think Peter was worried, even though he knew about what Jesus could do?

Peter learned that day that it is not enough just to *know about* Jesus. We also have to really *trust* Jesus. We have to know that if He can walk on water and feed the hungry and cure the sick, He can help us too. Jesus has the power to give us a new life, just like He has the power to do all these miracles. Sometimes we think just knowing about Jesus is all we need, but Jesus wants much more than that. He wants us to *trust* him and *know* him and *love* him. Jesus wants us to have a personal friendship with Him. That's the way to have a new life with Jesus.

There may be people here today that know about Jesus. Maybe you have been to Rainbow Express® before, or you attend the Bible Study in your apartments. Maybe somebody in your family reads the Bible to you. The good news that we want to tell you is that there is much more to this life than just knowing *about* Jesus. We can really get to know Jesus. Jesus wants to be with you, to love you, to teach you, and to help you live the new life that God wants to give you, just like he did for Peter that day on the lake. Jesus even died on the cross and then came back to life to take away your sin. If you would like to know more about how to have Jesus in your life, please ask us. We would love to tell you how.

*Each day you will close the story time with an invitation to accept Jesus. Say something like this:* God wants everybody to follow Him. The problem is our sin. Sin includes all the ways we disobey His instructions in what we think, do, or say. Sin means all the ways we treat God as less important than He really is and all the things we give the love and respect that God deserves. God still loves us, even though our hearts are sinful. 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 Two

*“I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future.” Jeremiah 29:11*

*Spanish: “Porque yo sé los planes que tengo para ustedes”—dice el SEÑOR—“planes de paz y no de mal, para darles un futuro y una esperanza.” Jeremías 29:11*

## **Wrap Up**

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

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

## **Game Time/Snacks**

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

# Day Three

## SUMMARY

- **Large Group**
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Memory Verse: Teams
- **Small Group**
  - Story: Peter's Denial and Forgiveness
    - Scripture for today's story: Matthew 26-28, John 21
  - 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 *My New Life*. Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that God has a perfect plan for our lives which we interrupt through sin. They will learn that Jesus came to save us from sin and restore us to a new life with God. Obviously, the decision to follow Christ is an incredibly personal decision. It is important that the children and youth who attend your Rainbow Express® understand that a personal relationship with Christ is a very important reality for the members of your group. Every day during the opening time one or two members of your group can share a short version of their testimony in front of the large group. The goal is to let the children see how listening and obeying as God has spoken in your life has made a practical and meaningful difference. *(For help on sharing in a way that will be age-appropriate and meaningful with children, each person who plans to give their testimony should read the sheet Tips on Preparing Your Testimony in the training materials section of this packet.)*

### Memory Verse Activity

When the Large Group Leader finishes his opening time, the Memory Verse Teacher will come to the front to lead the memory verse activity. The large group memory verse activity for day 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

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

# Day Three

teams. Have the teams compete saying the memory verse many different ways: loudest, softest, fastest, slowest, telephone style, English, Spanish, with hand motions, etc.

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

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

*Below is a suggested narrative to help with the day's introduction.*

This week we are learning about the new life that Jesus wants to give us. The first day we talked about Simon the fisherman. We learned how Jesus called him to leave his fishing boat and follow Jesus instead. We said that Jesus knows that we have made mistakes in our lives, but that He loves us anyway. Jesus offers us a chance to follow Him instead. He will help us live the life God created us to live in the first place.

Yesterday we talked about Jesus feeding thousands of people and walking on the water. We learned that Jesus gave Simon the new nickname Peter. Peter tried to walk on the water too, but do you remember what happened? As long as Peter was looking at Jesus, he was able to walk on the water. When he stopped trusting Jesus to protect him and started worrying about the wind and the waves, he sank. Peter was having a hard time believing Jesus could help him walk on the water, even though he had seen the amazing things Jesus had done. We learned that it is not enough to just know about Jesus. We have to learn to really trust Jesus and love Him, just like He loved us. Jesus wants to have a personal friendship with us. He wants to really be involved in our lives.

Jesus showed us how much He loves us in lots of ways. He taught us about God's love. He healed people who were sick, fed people who were hungry, and forgave people that had done wrong. We have talked about several of those things already. Today we're going to learn the one thing that proves, more than anything else, how much Jesus really does love us. We're going to see that Jesus did something really amazing to help us have the lives God wants to give us.

Remember that God created each of us. He designed us exactly perfect, exactly like He wants us to be. We do things that go against God's plan though, things called *sin*. God wants to save us from our sin so that we can follow the perfect plan that He has for us. Unfortunately, none of us can take away our own sin. Only somebody perfect can take away sin. One sinner can't remove another's sin anymore than you can use one dirty rag to clean another dirty rag. Jesus came and lived the perfect life, then did something absolutely incredible to take away our sins.

We're going to divide into our small groups and learn the awesome price Jesus paid to buy a new life for us.

## Small Group Story Time

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

# Day Three

*understood by elementary age children. Feel free to adapt these words to fit well with your own style.*

## **Today's Story: Peter's Denial and Forgiveness: Matthew 26—28, John 21**

This week we have learned that God designed each and every one of us to be especially who He created us to be. We also talked about our sin. We learned that sin includes all the ways we disobey His instructions in what we think, do, or say. Sin means all the ways we treat God as less important than He really is and all the things we give the love and respect that God deserves. We also said that our sin is what messes up God's perfect plan for our lives. We talked about Jesus coming to take away our sin. Do you know how He did that? Today we're going to learn what Jesus did to take away sin so that we can have the new lives that God wants to give us.

Over time, huge crowds of people began to follow Jesus. They loved to hear Him teach about God's love and the new lives God offers us. They loved seeing the incredible miracles that Jesus did. Not everybody was happy about all the attention Jesus was getting. There was a group of people that did not believe what Jesus said, even though they could see what Jesus did with their own eyes. These enemies did not want to accept the new lives God offers us.

Jesus' enemies decided they wanted to get rid of Him. They started looking for a way to kill Jesus. They found one of Jesus' followers and convinced him to give Jesus over to them in exchange for some money. Then, they waited for the right moment to take Jesus and have Him killed. Jesus knew all of this was going on. Even though he knew what was going to happen and had the power to stop it, Jesus didn't stop it. He had an even bigger and better plan.

One Thursday evening was a special holiday in Jesus' country. He celebrated by having a special dinner with His twelve closest followers, the disciples. The disciples didn't know it, but it would be the last meal they would ever eat before Jesus died.

Jesus was very sad, because He knew exactly what was going to happen. "Peter, I tell you the truth," Jesus said as they walked after dinner. "Tonight, before the rooster crows in the morning, you will say three times that you don't even know me." Peter couldn't believe what he heard. He loved Jesus. He did not think he would ever leave Jesus that way. Peter promised again that nothing would make him turn away from Jesus.

Later that night, while Jesus prayed and the disciples slept, Jesus' enemies came to get Him. One of His own disciples led them to Jesus. As the crowd rushed toward Jesus with swords and clubs and torches, His disciples became very afraid. They began to run away in fear. Peter wanted to protect Jesus. He tried to fight to save Jesus' life, but Jesus ordered him to stop. Peter did not understand that this was all a part of God's plan to save us from sin and give us the new life He offers us.

Peter was afraid and confused. He ran away while Jesus' enemies arrested Him. Peter followed from a distance and watched as they took Jesus to the house of His enemies' leader. Peter sat outside with the servants while he waited to see what would happen to Jesus.

During the night, some of the servants outside began to recognize Peter. "You came with Jesus from Galilee," one of the servants said. Peter was afraid of what would happen to him. He lied and said that he did not know Jesus. Another servant said, "I have seen this man with Jesus." Peter lied again, promising that he did not know Jesus. A little while later, another person in the crowd came to Peter. "You must have come with Jesus. You speak like His followers do."

Peter became very upset. "I keep telling you, I don't know the man," Peter said. As he spoke the words, Peter

# Day Three

heard a rooster crowing that the sun was coming up. He immediately remembered what Jesus had told him. Peter became so sad that he ran out of the city, crying. He had done exactly what he said he would never do. Peter was afraid he had lost Jesus and his own new life forever. Peter ran out of the town, crying bitterly.

The next morning, Friday, Jesus' enemies finished their plan. They took Jesus and killed Him on a place called Skull Hill. They drove big nails through Jesus' wrists and hung Him there on a cross. Jesus' enemies thought they had won by killing Jesus. Jesus' disciples were sad because they thought they would never see Him again. Neither group understood that God's perfect plan was happening, exactly like He wanted it to.

Ever since the very first people sinned, humans had been messing up God's perfect plan for us. Our sin keeps us away from God, which makes Him very sad. When Jesus came, He lived a perfect life, without any sin at all. He was being punished by His enemies, but He had never done anything wrong. Jesus was dying, not because of anything He had done, but to take away our sin. Jesus' death bought God's new life for us. Now we have an opportunity to accept God's new life and let Jesus take away our sin.

Jesus' body lay dead in a cave until Sunday morning. Then, something amazing happened: the greatest miracle in the Bible. Sunday morning, Jesus came back to life. He spent forty days visiting His friends and showing them that He was truly alive. One morning Peter was fishing in his boat, just like he was when Jesus first came to him. Some of the other disciples were with him. Jesus came to the beach and called out to them. Peter was so excited to see Jesus that he jumped in the water and swam to shore.

After they had eaten breakfast together, Jesus walked and talked with Peter. "Peter, do you really love me?" Jesus asked. "Lord, you know I love you," Peter answered him. Jesus gave Peter some instructions. "Then feed my sheep." Jesus was telling Peter to take care of God's people, just like a shepherd takes care of sheep. Jesus was giving Peter a mission to share the message of God's love and new life and to care for people all over the world. Jesus said this to Peter three times, just as Peter had denied Jesus three times.

Think about how excited Peter must have been. When Peter lied about Jesus the night before Jesus died, he may have been afraid that he had lost his opportunity to follow Jesus' new life. But when Jesus came back to life, He showed Peter that He will always love us, no matter what. He taught Peter that God can always forgive us. God always loves us, always accepts us, and always wants to be with us. He even gave us Jesus so that we would not have to die one day stuck outside of God's perfect plan. We can accept the new life that Jesus offers us here on Earth and know that one day we will be with Him forever in Heaven.

Just like Peter, we sometimes have a hard time understanding how much Jesus loves us. We sometimes might think we've done too many bad things for God to still care about us, but that's never ever true. Look at what we just learned. Jesus came to save the world from sin. Any of us, no matter who we are, no matter what we've done, can accept the free gift of new life that Jesus offers us. If you would like to know how to do this please tell us. We would love to help 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 our sin. Sin includes all the ways we disobey His instructions in what we think, do, or say. Sin means all the ways we treat God as less important than He really is and all the things we give the love and respect that God deserves. God still loves us, even though our hearts are sinful. 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.

# Day Three

## 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. For today's craft, you will be making salvation necklaces.

### *Salvation Necklaces*

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

For instructions on how to make today's craft, see the following pages. Step by step instructions on which order to put the beads on the necklace 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 necklace. During this craft you will be explaining God's plan for salvation. It is very important that you approach it with sensitivity to children that may be ready to make decisions to accept Christ. Please spend time in practice and prayer so that you will be ready when the time comes to clearly explain what salvation means.

## Memory Verse Activity

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

*"I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future." Jeremiah 29:11*

*Spanish: "Porque yo sé los planes que tengo para ustedes"--dice el SEÑOR--"planes de paz y no de mal, para darles un futuro y una esperanza." Jeremías 29:11*

## Wrap Up

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

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

# Day Three

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

## **Game Time/Snacks**

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

# Day Three Craft

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

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

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

**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 necklace.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**dark /  
oscuro**

I don't love and obey God like I should. The Bible calls that sin.

*No amo y obedezco a Dios como yo debo. La Biblia llama este pecado.*

**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 forgive my sin.

*Jesús puede perdonar mi pecado.*

**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.*

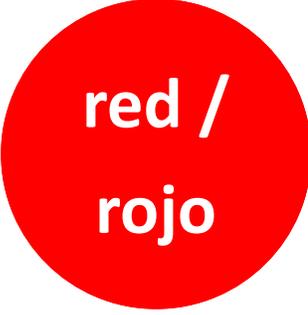


**dark /  
oscuro**

... 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*

---

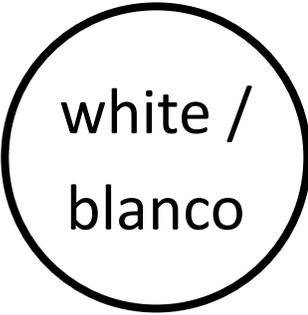


**red /  
rojo**

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*

---

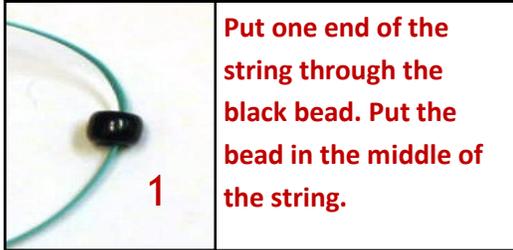


**yellow /  
amarillo**

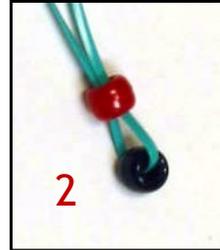
My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. John 14:2-3

*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 Three: Salvation Cross Necklace



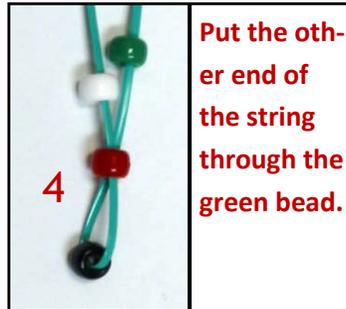
Put one end of the string through the black bead. Put the bead in the middle of the string.



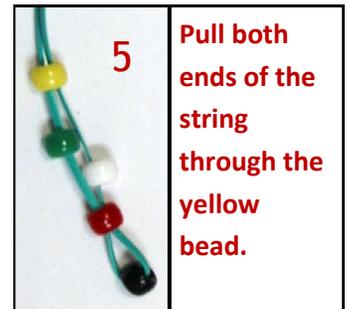
Put both ends of the string through the red bead. Move the red bead to let it rest on top of the black.



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.

# Day Four

## SUMMARY

- **Large Group**
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Memory Verse: Next Word Relay
- **Small Group**
  - Story: Sharing the Good News
    - Scripture for today's story: Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:3,6-11, 3:1-11,4,1-21
  - 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 My New Life. Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that God has a perfect plan for our lives which we interrupt through sin. They will learn that Jesus came to save us from sin and restore us to a new life with God. Obviously, the decision to follow Christ is an incredibly personal decision. It is important that the children and youth who attend your Rainbow Express® understand that a personal relationship with Christ is a very important reality for the members of your group. Every day during the opening time one or two members of your group can share a short version of their testimony in front of the large group. The goal is to let the children see how listening and obeying as God has spoken in your life has made a practical and meaningful difference. (For help on sharing in a way that will be age-appropriate and meaningful with children, each person who plans to give their testimony should read the sheet Tips on Preparing Your Testimony in the training materials section of this packet.)

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

# Day Four

## Memory Verse Activity

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

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

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

## Intro

This week we’re learning about the new life that Jesus wants to give us. We’ve learned that God lovingly designed each of us and that He has a perfect plan for us. We also know that, sadly, we’re not perfect. We sometimes choose to think, say, or do wrong things called *sin*. Sin keeps us away from God’s perfect plan for us. God doesn’t give up on us, though. Jesus came to take away our sin and to offer us a new life. He gave His own life by dying on the cross so that we can have a perfect, forever life with God.

The new life that Jesus offers us is incredibly good news. It makes me very excited to remember that Jesus loves me so much that He was even willing to die so that I can have a new life. I’m so happy about it that I came here this week to share this good news with all of you. That’s what we do with good news, right? We share it with other people. Think about when you have a birthday party, a really good grade, or a new baby brother or sister? Don’t you want to tell other people about it? It makes us feel good to share good news with the people around us.

Jesus gave us an important good-news-sharing job. Jesus wants those of us who have Him in our lives to tell other people about Him. Remember, Jesus loves every single person in the whole world. He offers the same forgiveness, the same love, and the same opportunity for a new life to all people. Jesus loves us enough that He lets us be a part of His perfect plan. That plan includes making sure everybody gets a chance to know Jesus.

Today we’re going to see how Jesus helps us carry out that perfect plan. He promised that He will always be with us. He loves us, and wants to help us help other people know that He loves them too.

## Small Group Story Time

*When the Large Group Time is over, divide the children into small groups for story time. The text provided here is to serve as a guide for you while you tell the story. Read it through several times and be able to tell it from memory. It is not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. Your goal is to be able to relate the story*

# Day Four

*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: Sharing the Good News: Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:3,6-11, 3:1-11,4,1-21**

This week we have seen that God loves us and created each of us to be part of His family. We have learned that God has a wonderful, perfect plan for each of our lives. We also talked about sin: all the ways we fail to love and honor God, including the ways we disobey Him with what we think, do, and say. We said that Jesus came to save us from sin and give us a new life so we can enjoy God's great plan for us.

We have talked about Peter, and seen how Jesus gave Peter a brand new life. The first day we saw how Peter left behind his boat and old life to follow Jesus. We said that we can choose to follow Jesus too. The second day we talked about Jesus feeding thousands of people and walking on the water. We learned that we can do more than just learn stories about Jesus; we can really trust him with our whole lives. Yesterday we learned how Jesus died on the cross and came back to life. We learned that Jesus paid the price for our sin and opened the door for us to have a wonderful new life with God.

Yesterday we said that after Jesus came back to life He spent some time with His disciples. After forty days, Jesus took His disciples to the top of a mountain. Jesus gave His disciples a very important instruction. He told them to tell everybody about Jesus. They were to invite people to accept the new life that Jesus offers. "Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you," Jesus said. "And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end." As He was speaking, Jesus began to float up into the sky. The disciples stood there amazed, watching as Jesus returned to His home in Heaven. He floated higher and higher until a cloud covered Him and the disciples could not see Him any more.

Not long after that the disciples and many of Jesus' followers were gathered together, talking to Jesus by praying. As they prayed, they heard a very loud noise, like a strong wind. They watched as something that looked like fire came into the room. It separated into small fires and came and landed on the heads of each of them, but without hurting them. The disciples began to feel something they had never felt before. What do you think it was?

When we think of God, we sometimes think about Him like He lives far away, "up there somewhere" in Heaven. Through Jesus, the disciples had learned that God wants to be with people. Now the disciples were finding something brand new. God was coming to live in people. The Bible tells us that when we accept the new life that Jesus made for us when He died on the cross, God comes to live in each of our lives. He wants to be right here with us, even inside us.

The disciples could feel that God had come to live in them. They finally had the new lives that Jesus had been promising them all along. The disciples excitedly began to tell everybody around them the Good News about Jesus, His death on the cross, and His return to life.

One day Peter and one of the other disciples, John, were on their way to church. There was a man sitting outside whose legs did not work. He had never been able to walk. Each day the man sat outside the church and asked people coming in for money to buy food. When he saw Peter and John he asked them for money too.

"Look at us," Peter said to the man who could not walk. "I don't have any money to give you, but I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus, stand up and walk." Peter pulled the man, who had never stood up before, to his feet. The man began to walk, then run, then jump and dance around. People in the church could see what was happening. They recognized the running, jumping man as the same man they had known their whole lives couldn't walk. People began to crowd around Peter and John to hear them explain what happened. Peter began to tell the happy crowd the good news about Jesus.

The church where they were was run by the same people who were enemies of Jesus, the people that had killed Him

# Day Four

on a cross. When these enemies heard that Peter was talking about Jesus in their church, they became very upset. They rushed at Peter and John and had them arrested. Some thought they should kill Peter and John, just like they had killed Jesus. Some thought they should leave Jesus' followers alone. Finally, they decided to order the disciples to never speak about Jesus again. The church leaders promised Peter and John that if they ever spoke about Jesus again, they would be killed.

What do you think Peter said? Remember yesterday we learned that when Peter was afraid the night Jesus' enemies came, Peter lied and said he had never even met Jesus. Now, though, God had come to live inside Peter, just like He wants to do for you and me. When God comes into us, He gives us a brand new life. He helps us to live the perfect plan He has for us. Peter was not afraid any more. Knowing Jesus had changed Peter's whole life. Peter looked straight at the men who had killed Jesus, men Peter knew could kill him too. "For us, there is no question," Peter said, "we cannot stop talking about what we have seen and heard." The church leaders were amazed. The Bible tells us that they could see Peter and John were ordinary people, but that being with Jesus had changed their lives. They let Peter and John go.

Everything changes when we let Jesus into our lives, when we accept the free gift He got for us by dying on the cross and returning to life. Jesus' new life makes scared people brave. It makes mean people kind, and lonely people loving. God helps us to love Him like we should, know Him like we should, and obey Him like we should. There is nothing better than the life that Jesus offers us. All we have to do is accept His free gift. Then, just like Peter, we need to tell other people about it.

You can see from what we have learned this week the complete change that God made in Peter. He offers us the same opportunity. We can become God's best friends, His own children. Then He can use us to help more and more other people know Him too. We are part of the mission that Jesus gave the disciples to tell the whole world about Him. If you think you are ready to accept the new life that Jesus offers you, please talk to us. We would love to help you know how.

*Each day you will close the story time with an invitation to accept Jesus. Say something like this:* God wants everybody to follow Him. The problem is our sin. Sin includes all the ways we disobey His instructions in what we think, do, or say. Sin means all the ways we treat God as less important than He really is and all the things we give the love and respect that God deserves. God still loves us, even though our hearts are sinful. That's why Jesus came. Jesus died on the cross to be punished for our sins. Then on the third day He came back to life. Now, for anybody who asks, Jesus will take away our sins and become a part of our lives. He will help us to follow Him. The Bible says that if we believe Jesus in our hearts and follow Him, He will save us from our sin and help us to follow God. Then one day we will be with Him in heaven. Anybody that wants to choose to follow Jesus can do that today. We would love to help you know how.

## **Prayer Time**

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

## **Craft**

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

# Day Four

## 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:

*"I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future." Jeremiah 29:11*

*Spanish: "Porque yo sé los planes que tengo para ustedes"--dice el SEÑOR--"planes de paz y no de mal, para darles un futuro y una esperanza." Jeremías 29:11*

## Wrap Up

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

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

## Game Time/Snacks

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

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***