



Spring Break 2016



Rainbow Express Mission Trip

Curriculum and Planning Packet

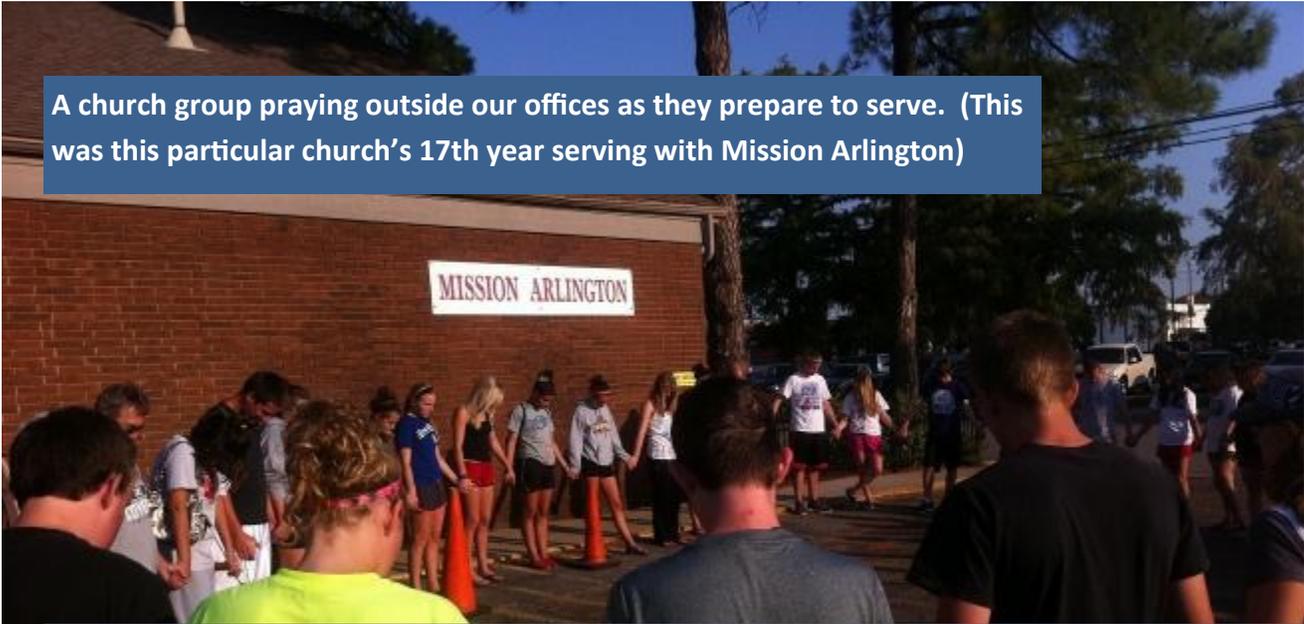
We are so grateful that the Lord is sending your group to Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex for a 2016 Spring Break Rainbow Express Mission Trip! Our team is praying faithfully for you as you prepare spiritually and logistically to serve with us here.

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

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

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

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



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

Group Leader's Preparation Materials

Contains:

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

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

A visitor to Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex once told us that we sometimes speak in code. We readily admit that so many different things are happening here that it can become a little confusing. This is an explanation of some of our key terms:

- **Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex:** We are an evangelical ministry functioning in partnership with most of the local churches in Arlington from across all denominations. Essentially, we do two basic things (which are closely intertwined): 1) we begin Bible Studies which over time grow into churches in neighborhoods (mostly low-income apartment communities) all over this city and 2) we meet a variety of physical needs through free “benevolent” programs like medical clinics, food pantries, afterschool tutoring, and more. You will be partnering with us by leading evangelistic programs in the apartment communities and other neighborhoods where we have ministries and by supporting our benevolent programs.
- **Apartment Churches:** Mission Arlington began in 1986 with a very simple philosophy: take church to people who, for whatever reason, were not coming to a church building anywhere. On the first Sunday of August of that year, a Bible Study met in the living room of a woman who lived in a local apartment community. That first morning, seventeen people found that they could meet Christ in a church that met right where they lived. Today, we have teams ministering in different ways in more than 300 apartments, mobile homes, community centers, playgrounds, laundry rooms, and wherever people will gather. Any given Sunday, more than 5,000 people attend a Mission Arlington congregation in their own neighborhood.
- **Rainbow Express:** Rainbow Express is the name of the Backyard Bible Clubs you will be leading while you are here. Mission Arlington has been leading outdoor Vacation Bible Schools for our many apartment churches since the beginning. When these programs first began the volunteers that were leading them had a large portable stage built on a trailer that they pulled from site to site for puppet shows. This trailer, which was decorated with a rainbow, came to be known to the children as the Rainbow Express. Rainbow Express then became the name for all of the Vacation Bible Schools.
- **Work Projects:** Mission Arlington follows Jesus’ model of ministry: meet both physical and spiritual needs to provide a tangible expression of the Father’s love and people will be drawn to Him. Part of each day you are here will be spent leading Rainbow Express programs. With the remainder of each day you will participate in some of Mission Arlington’s many other ministries. This might include picking up donations, delivering furniture to families, working in the clothing room or the food warehouse, passing out flyers to invite people to an event, holding field days or other fun events in one of the apartment communities, or any number of other opportunities. Any special materials or training that you may need will be provided while you are here.



A volunteer leads music Sunday morning in an apartment community clubhouse

Schedule Information: Week Overview and Sunday

Week Overview

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday Schedule

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

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

12:30 PM Return from apartment churches, take lunch break

1:30 PM Pass out flyers in apartment communities where Rainbow Express will be taking place this week.

3:15 PM Return to Mission Arlington

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

5:00 PM Meeting for all group leaders with Matt Hart, Rainbow Express Coordinator

5:15 PM Leave Mission Arlington, pray and make any last minute preparations for beginning Rainbow Express tomorrow



Schedule Information: Tentative Monday—Thursday

SCHEDULE: MARCH 14th—18th, 2016

Monday—Thursday

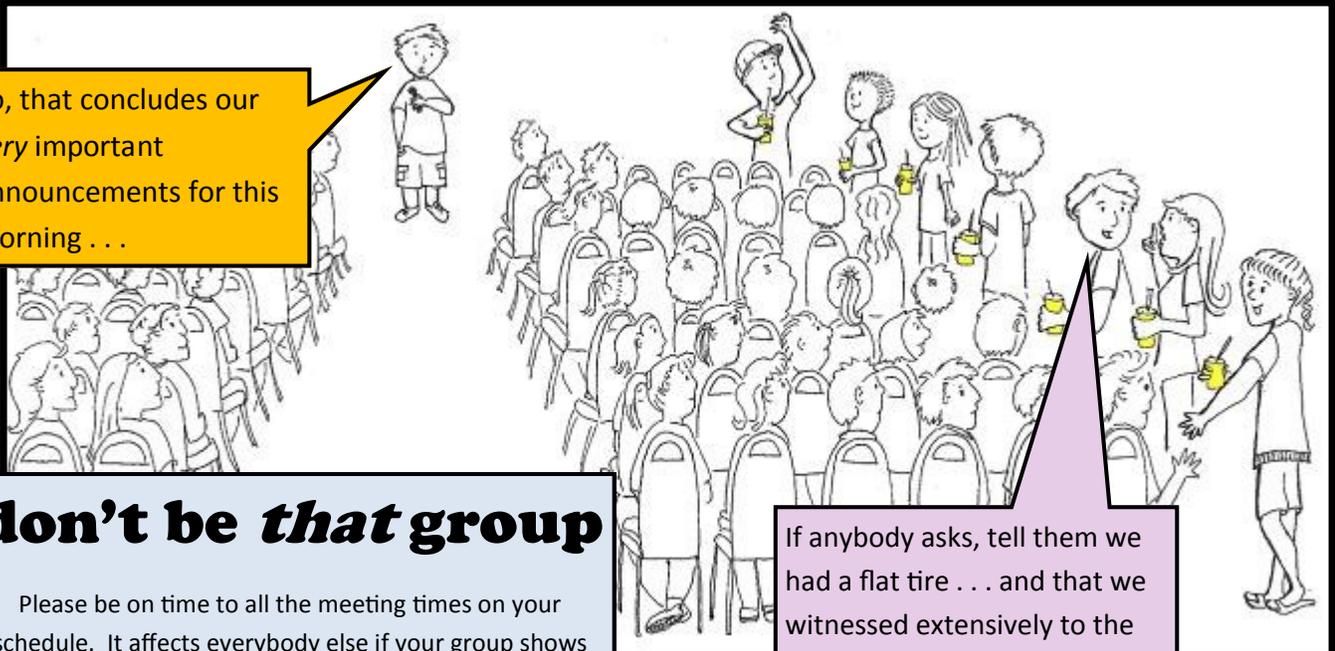
- 8:30 Meet at Mission Arlington for morning devotional time
- 9:45 Morning Rainbow Express groups leave for their site
- 10:30 Morning Rainbow Express begins
- NOON Morning Rainbow Express ends. Clean up, walk children home, etc., then take a lunch break.
- 1:30 Meet to worship and prepare for Rainbow Express
- 2:30 Depart for Rainbow Express
- 3:00 Rainbow Express begins
- 4:30 Rainbow Express ends. Clean up.
- 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 this week, each Rainbow Express team will lead two sites, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

SCHEDULE FOR GROUPS COMING ALL OTHER 2016 SPRING BREAK WEEKS

Monday—Thursday

- 8:30 Meet for morning 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 to worship and prepare for Rainbow Express
- 3:15 Depart for Rainbow Express
- 4:00 Rainbow Express begins
- 5:30 Turn in daily report to Mission Arlington. Options for projects in the evenings will be made available during the week.



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. (Winter headgear is okay if it's cold.)
- **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.



Volunteers preparing accommodations for an incoming group.

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

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

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

Packing Lists

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

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

For Rainbow Express, bring with you:

- Some of the memory verse activities require simple supplies like balloons or popsicle sticks.
- Tarp (at least 10' by 10'): excellent to use for the children to sit on during Rainbow Express
- Posterboard: use it for memory verse posters, puzzles, etc.
- Puppets: Mission Arlington has some to loan if you don't have access to puppets
- Some kind of staging for the puppets. If you don't have a puppet stage the two easiest/cheapest options are 1) hang an extra tarp or blanket across a broom handle or PVC pipe and have 2 volunteers hold it up or 2) many appliance stores will give away free large cardboard boxes you can use as an impromptu stage (see the illustration.)
- Any music you might need for your puppet time at Rainbow Express.
- Water cooler and drinking cups.
- Snacks. Mission Arlington will have some things available, but it helps if your church can also bring cookies, candy, chips, crackers, etc.
- Craft supplies: Mission Arlington will provide some glue, scissors, crayons, etc. You may find it helps your group run smoother if you have some extras.
- Games equipment: cones, hula hoops, etc. will be very useful during your game time. *Note: Please do NOT bring balls or frisbees unless they are of the soft, "Nerf" foam variety.*



If you are staying in our accommodations:

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

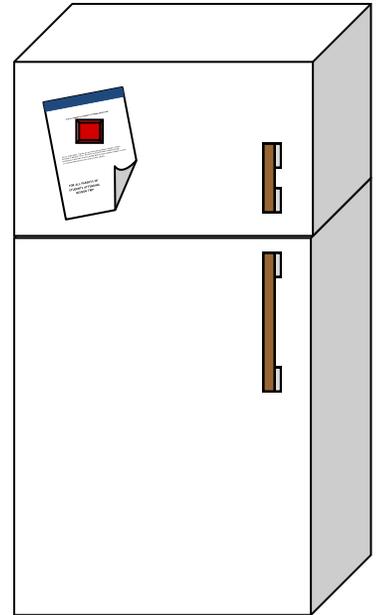
- Materials for meals: remember that you are responsible for all your own food. Most groups do sack lunches or fast food for lunch. Breakfasts and dinners are up to you. If you plan to cook remember that you are only guaranteed access to a normal, residential apartment-sized kitchen and make sure to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

The Refrigerator Sheet for Parents

FOR ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIP

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

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



Preparing for Rainbow Express

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

Romans 10:13-14



Rainbow Express is Mission Arlington’s version of a backyard Bible Club.

Your group will be leading one or more Rainbow Express 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)

Adult Sponsor(s):	
Team Leader:	
Large Group Leader:	
Song Leader:	
Memory Verse Teacher:	
Puppet Wrangler:	
Game Leader:	
Attendance Taker:	
Youth Leader:	
Small Group Partner pairs: <i>(This is all students in your group, matched in pairs to lead small groups)</i>	

Remember that one person can have more than one responsibility.

Logistics Questionnaire

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

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

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

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

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

T-Shirt Order Form

Group:

Date of order:

Contact name and phone number:

Method of payment:

Small _____

Medium _____

Large _____

X-Large _____

XX-Large _____

For those paying with Credit Card:

Card type:

Name as it appears on card:

Billing address of credit card:

Credit Card Number:

Expiration date:

Total amount to be charged:

E-mail:

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

A group teaching the memory verse in a Spring Break 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 spring weather, which means temperatures of anywhere from 50° to 90°. **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. (Winter headgear is okay if it's cold.)



CONDUCT GUIDELINES

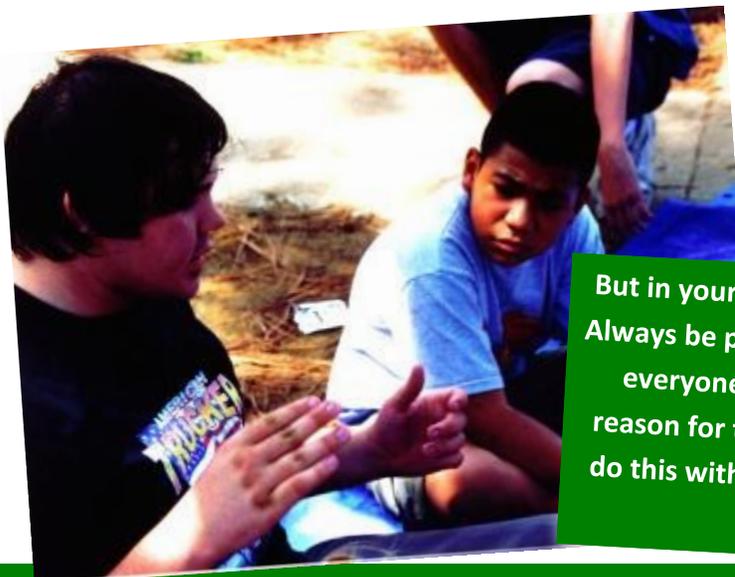
- **Be focused on the most important thing:** Mission work is full of surprises. God has a specific plan for you, and for the many lives He will use you to touch. The best preparation for this experience is spiritual. Keep reading your Bible daily, both before you come, and while you are here. Make sure you keep your quiet time with the Lord as a firm commitment. Don't miss your moments with Him.
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- **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 18th century garbanzo bean farming techniques, the children will not care. If you are excited about what Christ has done in your life, the children will be too.
- **Be Excited**—Sometimes there is a temptation to think that your personal testimony may not be as interesting as somebody else’s. Remember that we never need to compare our relationship with Christ to another. It took just as much of Jesus’ sacrifice to save us as it did any other human being on the planet. Be excited and grateful for what God did in your life, whether it happened as an adult in prison or a five-year-old in Sunday School.
- **Be Prayerful**—Like everything else you do this week, sharing your testimony must be bathed in prayer. Ask God to give you the right words and demeanor. Ask Him to prepare the hearts of the people that will be hearing.



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

1 Peter 3:15

- **Give God the Glory**—This may sound obvious: but remember to make your testimony about God. Your testimony is not about the bad things you used to do. It’s not about the good things you do now. It is about the change that Jesus brought in your life. It is about His sacrifice and His forgiveness. Make sure people walk away from your testimony impressed by Jesus, not by you.

Prayer Guide

We will be serving with Mission Arlington this Spring Break 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, ²¹ 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.)

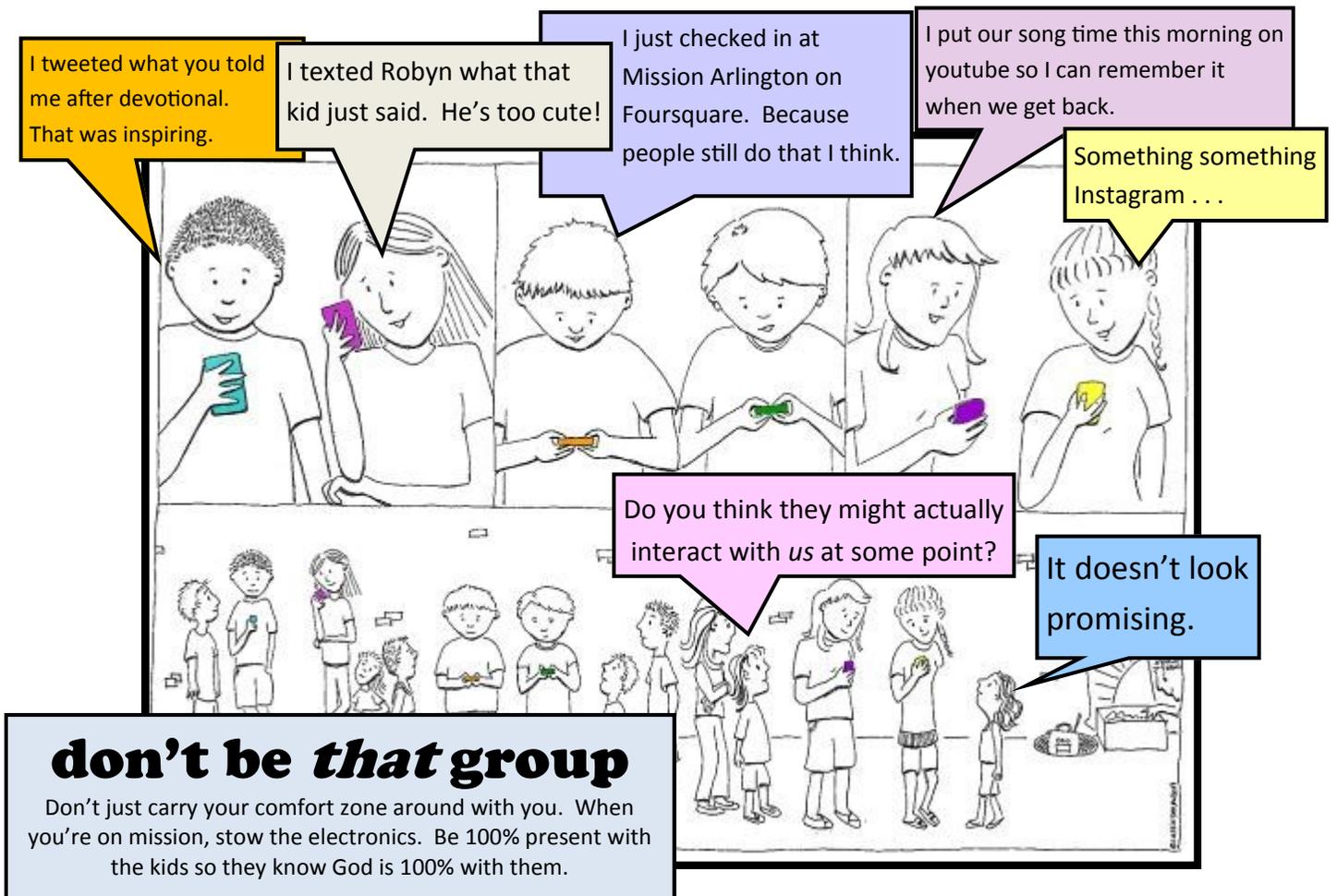
- ◆ Each small group team will share the day's Bible Story while in their small group.
- ◆ Take this time after the story to pray with the children in your small group. Ask them for things they would like to pray about. Tell God how awesome He is. Ask Him to help you and the children in your small group 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 bracelets. All of these materials will be provided by Mission Arlington while you are here.
- ◆ While still in small groups, review the week's memory verse. You can do a small group version of the same memory verse activity you used in large group time, or choose from one of the other suggested activities in the memory verse teacher material. (Remember that you need to provide whatever materials you need for the memory verse activities.)
- ◆ Reassemble for a large group **closing time**. The Large Group Leader will lead a short review time to help wrap up the day's activities.



- ◆ Play **games** until it is time for Rainbow Express to end.
- ◆ Pass out **snacks** to each child. Have the children eat snacks there so you can make sure all trash is cleaned up.
- ◆ It is mandatory that you walk each child home after Rainbow Express.
- ◆ After everything is cleaned up and all children are walked home, come back to Mission Arlington to turn in your reports for the day.

Tips for a Successful Rainbow Express

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

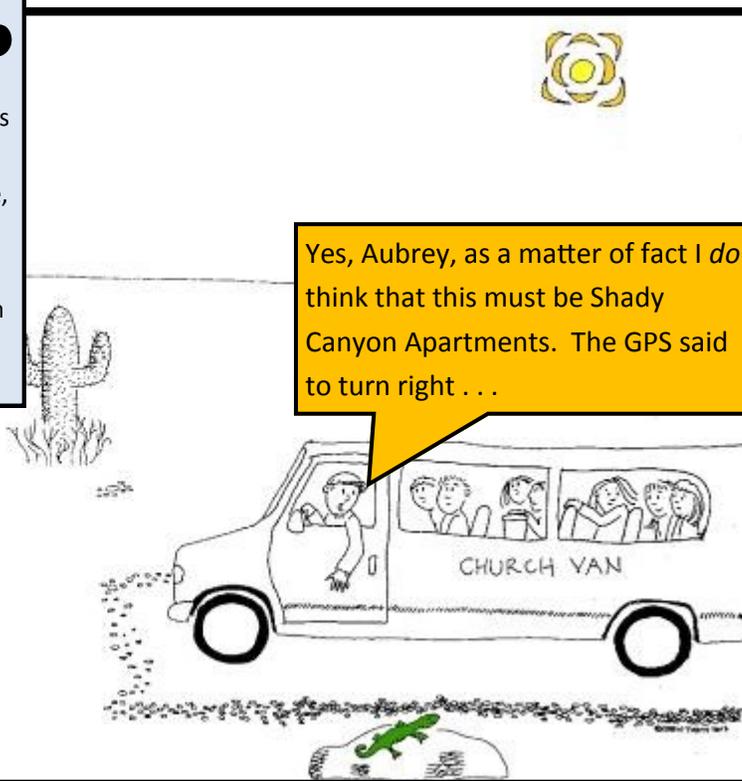


Adult Team Leader / Sponsor

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

don't be *that* group

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



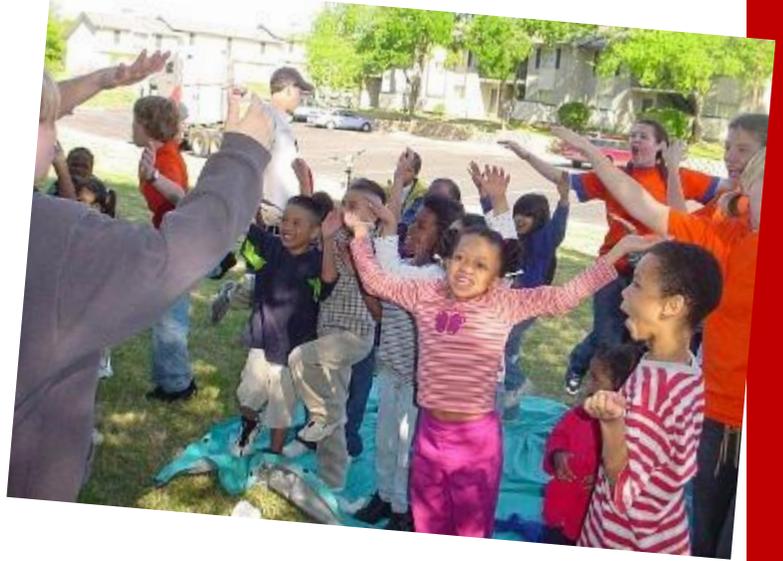
Small Group Teams

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



Songs Leader

- ◆ You will be leading songs with your Rainbow Express group. Pray that God will help the kids to learn the songs so they can carry the message of Christ's love with them.
- ◆ The following pages contain some suggested "Sunday School songs" to get you thinking about songs to use.
- ◆ You are not limited to doing only the songs in the list. Feel free to do any other children's songs that your group knows. If you see songs you don't know in the packet, you can find lots of them on youtube.
- ◆ Have songs chosen ahead of time that you will sing each day. You can take requests, but have a list of songs ready.
- ◆ Sing "stand up" songs with lots of motions first, then sing "sit down" songs to prepare the children for the puppet show or Bible story.
- ◆ Be sure all of the team members know the songs you are going to sing. All team members should sing with enthusiasm.



1. Bubbling

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

2. Come and Go with Me

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

3. Deep and Wide

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

4. Do You Love my Jesus

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

5. Father Abraham

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

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

6. God Is So Good

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

7. Give Me Oil in my Lamp

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

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

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

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

9. He's a Peach of a Savior

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

10. I'm All Wrapped Up

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

11. I'm Gonna Sing, Sing, Sing

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

12. I'm in the Lord's Army

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

13. I've Got a River of Life

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

14. I've Got Joy Down in my Heart

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

15. I've Got Peace Like a River

I've got peace like a river, I've got
peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul

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

16. I Have So Much

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

17. Little Square Box

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

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

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

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

19. If You're Happy and You Know It

If you're happy and you know it clap

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

20. Jesus in the Morning

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning
Jesus at the noon time
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus when the sun goes
down

Love Him....
Serve Him...
Praise Him...
Share Him...
Thank Him...

21. Jesus Is my Rock

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

22. Jesus Loves Me

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

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

23. My God Is So Big

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

24. No One That I Know

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

25. Sheep Song

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

26. Satan Didn't Like It

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

27. Shake a Friend's Hand

Shake a friend's hand,
Shake the hand next to you
Shake a friend's hand and sing along
Shake a friend's hand,
Shake the hand next to you

Shake a friend's hand and sing,
Sing a ha-la-la-la-la-la-leluah,
Ha-la-la-la-la-leluah (repeat)

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

28. Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

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

29. On a Day Like This

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

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

30. The Fruit of the Spirit

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

31. This is the Day

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

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

32. This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it
shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it
shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it
shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine
Hide it under a bush, oh no!
I'm gonna let it shine
Hide it
under a
bush, oh
no!
I'm gonna
let it shine
Hide it
under a
bush, oh
no!
I'm gonna
let it shine
Let it shine,
let it shine,
let it shine
Won't let
satan blow
it out,
I'm gonna let it shine

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

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

34. What a Mighty God We Serve

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

35. Who's the King of the Jungle?

Who's the king of the jungle? ooo ooo
Who's the king of the sea?
wiggie wiggie wiggie
Who's the king of the universe,
and who's the king of me?



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

36. With Jesus in your Boat

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

Memory Verse Teacher

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

Acts 4:12—Salvation is found in no one [but Jesus], for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Hechos 4:12— Y en ningún otro [aparte de Jesús] hay salvación; porque no hay otro nombre bajo el cielo, dado a los hombres, en que podamos ser salvos.

(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.

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.



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.

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.**



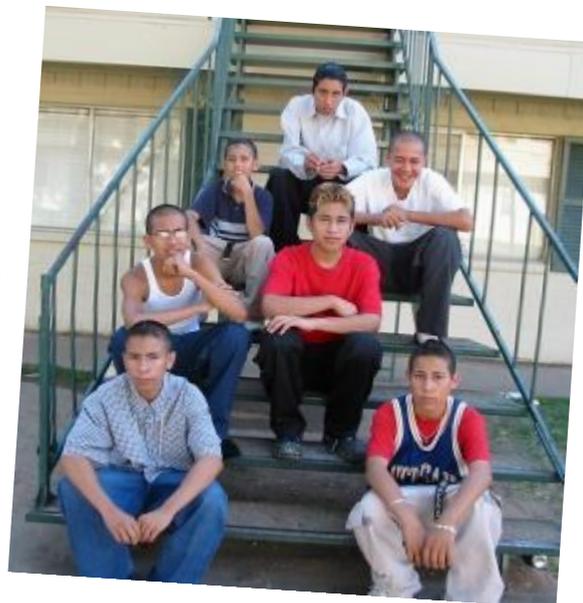
Games Leader (continued): SUGGESTED GAMES

- **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:

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

Continued on next page

Youth Leader

TIPS ABOUT WORKING WITH INNER-CITY YOUTH FROM A MISSION ARLINGTON MISSIONARY

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

- **Introduce yourself:** Don't wait for the youth to walk up to you—it won't happen. You (2 or 3 of you) should walk up to them, stick out your hand to shake theirs & introduce yourself. If you're meeting guys, invite them to throw the football, play soccer, or even wall-ball (at an appropriate place). Try to do this event somewhat removed from the younger kids because they may get distracted. If you're meeting girls who aren't interested in football, soccer, or wall-ball, just be prepared to sit with them and get to know them.
- **Engage them:** Maybe they can help you unload, carry boxes, pick up trash, help translate (lots of Spanish speaking kids will be attending Rainbow Express), play with the younger kids after Rainbow Express is over, etc. During this time, you will continue to get to know them.
- **Develop a Relationship:** Remember that in Jesus' ministry, he met physical & emotional needs a lot of time before he addressed a person's spiritual needs. Don't be judgmental even if their looks, language, or conversation startles you. Hopefully you will have four days with them, so get to know them and when the Spirit leads you, begin the conversation about a relationship with Christ. Don't make assumptions about whether or not they are believers. You'll come across both.



- **Make Them Feel Special:** You want them to know that you have planned this time for them. Come prepared with football, soccer ball, basketball, etc. Maybe bring an additional snack for them. Sit around with the youth & munch on chips or cookies while you get to know them. Bring a few Bibles (pick an easy to read translation like NIV) so as one reads they can all follow along. Keep the actual lesson time short—most of the time should be spent getting to know them & discussing the lesson.

2016 Spring Break Rainbow Express Curriculum

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

Day One: Jesus is God

SUMMARY

- **Large Group**
 - Songs
 - Puppets
 - Testimony
 - Memory Verse: Fast and Slow
- **Small Group**
 - Story: The Transfiguration
 - Theme: Jesus is God
 - Scripture for today's story: Luke 9:18-43
 - Memory Verse Review
- **Large Group**
 - Story review questions, Skit

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 being certain of who Jesus is. Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that we can be sure that Jesus Christ is our only Savior. 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.

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.

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.

Day One: Jesus is God

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

Introduction of Today’s Story--Building the Foundation

When the memory verse teacher is finished, the Large Group Leader will return to the front to provide a brief introduction to the day’s theme and story. Each day you will re-introduce the concept that the Bible tells us 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.

God created the world long ago. He made the angels and the Arctic, the sun and stars, the trees and turtles, and the rocks and raccoons. God made the water and the light and the wind. He made everything that there is! Last of all, God made people.

For a time, people lived as God’s friend. He walked and talked with them. He wanted us to spend time with Him. He wanted us to be with Him forever.

Something terrible happened. Some of the angels God had made turned against Him. They became enemies of God, so He sent them away.

One of these evil angels convinced the first people that they should disobey God too. The people listened to him instead of listening to God. People began to do bad things, things the Bible calls sin.

God is perfect. Sin cannot be around Him. Because of that, the first people had to leave the perfect lives that God had for them. Ever since then, our human lives have been full of problems.

God was very sad that people had turned against Him. He still loves us very much. He does not want us to have to be away from Him.

So God made a promise. He promised that somebody would come to save people. This Savior would make a way to take away people’s sins. For a very long time, people waited for the Savior. God sent messages through people called the prophets, reminding them that He was going to send somebody to save them.

About two thousand years ago, the Savior finally came. His name was Jesus. He came to Earth to help us. He came to make a way to take away our sins. Jesus lived an amazing life, helping people and teaching that God still loves us. In the end, He did something incredible to take away our sins. He gave up His own life so that we could be saved.

People are amazed by the things Jesus did while He was here. Jesus walked on water, brought dead people back to life, and even told a storm what to do.

Some people were not happy about what Jesus did and taught. They spread lies about Jesus, just like Jesus’ followers spread the truth about Him. God told four men, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, to write books telling the true story of Jesus’ life. Today, those books are part of our Bible. This week we’re going to be learning the truth about Jesus from those books. God wants us to know for sure who Jesus is.

I am going to read to you part of the very beginning of Luke’s book. Luke wrote: “Many people have attempted to

Day One: Jesus is God

write about the things that have taken place among us. Reports of these things were handed down to us. There were people who saw these things for themselves from the beginning and then passed the word on. I myself have carefully looked into everything from the beginning. So it seemed good also to me to write down an orderly report of exactly what happened. I am doing this for you, most excellent God-Lover. I want you to know that the things you have been taught are true.”

All this week we were going to be learning for certain that what we know about Jesus is true.

(NOTE—The quotation above is Luke 1:1-4 from the NIRV, with the phrase “God-Lover” substituted for the name Theophilus.)

Small Group Story Time

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

Today’s Story:

While Jesus was here on Earth, He did many amazing things that only God could do. As Jesus travelled from place to place teaching about God’s love, He did things to show people that He was really God. Jesus healed sick people, opened the eyes of blind people, and even brought dead people back to life.

When people heard about the amazing things Jesus did, they became very excited. Huge crowds began to follow Jesus from town to town. They liked listening to Jesus teach. They also liked to see the amazing things that He did. People began to talk about Jesus all over the country. They were trying to decide what they believed about Jesus.

One day, a few of His closest friends and followers were with Him. Jesus asked them a question. “Many crowds of people follow me. Who do all these people think I am?” Jesus said.

“Some of the people think you are somebody that has come back from the dead. Some think you might be one of the people God gave messages to long ago. They think you came back to bring more messages.”

Jesus knew that these stories were not the truth about who He was. He wanted His friends to know who He really was. “What about you?” Jesus asked them. “Who do you say I am?”

One of Jesus’ followers named Peter answered. “You are the special one from God to save the world.” Peter said. Peter was right. He believed that Jesus was telling the truth about who He was.

Many people back then were trying to decide what to believe about Jesus. Some people are still trying to decide today. The truth is that Jesus is exactly who He said He is: the Savior who came to take away the world’s sin.

About a week later, Jesus took Peter and two brothers named James and John with Him up a mountain to pray. While He prayed, Jesus changed in front of them. He no longer looked like a normal person like you or me. His face was changed, and His clothes shone as bright as lightning. Two men from very long ago named Moses and Elijah came down from Heaven to speak with Him. They were talking with Jesus about what He would soon do to take away sin.

Day One: Jesus is God

Peter, James, and John had been very sleepy on the mountain. But when they saw Jesus change, they were amazed. They saw that Jesus really was God. They could see the two men talking with Jesus.

Moses and Elijah were about to go back to Heaven because they were finished speaking with Jesus. Peter did not want them to go. He wanted to stay on the mountain with Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. "Master, it is good to be here together," Peter said. "Let's make three places to stay: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter did not understand that Jesus had to go back down from the mountain. He had an important mission to take away sin.

A cloud came down from Heaven and surrounded Jesus, Peter, James, John, Moses, and Elijah. Jesus' three friends were afraid. God's voice came down from Heaven. "This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to what He says!" Then the cloud went away. When it left, Moses and Elijah were gone.

The next day, Jesus took His friends down from the mountain. He still had work to do to save people from sin and bring them back to God. A large crowd was waiting for Jesus at the bottom of the mountain. One of the men in the crowd had a son who needed help. There was an evil spirit in the boy that sometimes made him scream or tried to hurt him by throwing him into fire or water.

The man was looking for somebody to help his son. He asked people to help, but nobody could. "Bring your son to me," Jesus told the man. Because Jesus was God, the spirit had to obey what Jesus said. He ordered it to leave the boy alone. The spirit left him right away. Jesus gave the boy back to his father. Everyone who saw what happened was amazed at how wonderful God is.

The people around Jesus had to decide to believe the truth about Him. Some of the people did not believe the truth. They did not believe that Jesus had really come to save people and take away our sin. Other people did believe. They saw the wonderful things Jesus did. They heard the wonderful things that He taught. They could see, like Peter did, that Jesus really was God and that He came to save us.

Today, just like two thousand years ago, there are people who do not tell the truth about Jesus. There are people today that say Jesus was not really God. They say that maybe He was just a very special person, or a great teacher about God, or maybe that God made Him. The Bible tells us for sure that Jesus is God.

We have to make a choice, just like those people had to choose. Are we going to ignore what Jesus wants to do for us? Or are we going to believe the truth about Him, that He really is God? Will we trust Jesus to save us from sin and bring us back to God? That is exactly what He wants to do, and exactly why He came. We can know the truth about Jesus. When we do, we will be ready to let Him save us.

If you would like to know more about how Jesus wants to save you, please tell us. We would love to help you know how.

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

Day One: Jesus is God

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:

Acts 4:12—Salvation is found in no one [but Jesus], for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Hechos 4:12— Y en ningún otro [aparte de Jesús] hay salvación; porque no hay otro nombre bajo el cielo, dado a los hombres, en que podamos ser salvos. (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.

In this large group session you will have a short skit/object lesson to help emphasize the theme of the day's activities. A script is provided below. When you finish the skit, ask the children review questions to help them re-cement in their own minds the day's Bible Story. Review the memory verse together one last time, then pray before dismissing to games time and snacks.

Day One Object Lesson:

Each day you will provide a visual object lesson during your large group closing time that is designed to help drive home the day's theme.

Set-up for today:

Two Actors, A Bible, and A "Get-Rid-O-Sin-O-Matic" Kit. Make a brightly colored box or bag with a gaudy label. (Imagine the kind of thing you would buy from a late-night infomercial.) Inside the kit put: soap, paint, some sort of humorous disguise like a funny hat or fake nose, a large fork or spoon, and some kind of snack.

Day One: Jesus is God

Have the actor with the kit stand in front of the group and rummage through the items inside. He needs to pick the soap and start rubbing it all over his clothes. While he is rubbing, have the second actor walk up, Bible in hand, and watch confusedly.

Actor 1: What in the world are you doing? Aren't you going to mess up your clothes?

Actor 2: Oh hello. I hope it won't mess up my clothes, but I've gotta try. I'm using my new, super deluxe "Get-Rid-O-Sin-O-Matic" Kit. I bought it to help get all the sin out of my life.

Actor 1: A Get-Rid-O-Sin-O-Matic? What are you talking about?

Actor 2: Well, today at the first part of Rainbow Express they said that we all mess up and sin sometimes. That sin keeps us away from God, right?

Actor 1: Well . . . yes that's true. But did you stay until small groups and learn the story today?

Actor 2: No, I was so worried about sin, that I ran all the way home. I got on-line and ordered this kit. It's supposed to have lots of different ways to get rid of sin. Look, I'll show you. *(Pull the items out of the kit as you explain them.)* First, I'm supposed to use this soap and scrub as hard as I can. Hopefully, that will get rid of all the sin. Then, if that doesn't work, I paint all over myself with this.

Actor 1: You *paint* all over yourself?

Actor 2: Oh yes. Hopefully, that will cover up my sin. If that doesn't work, I put on this disguise. Then, maybe God won't recognize my sin.

Actor 1: God knows everything. He definitely won't be fooled by that.

Actor 2: Yeah, I kind of thought that too. There's also this big scooper. If the soap, and the paint, and the disguise don't work, I can try to just scoop out my sin.

Actor 1: That doesn't make any sense.

Actor 2: I didn't think so either, but that's what the instructions said. Look, the kit even came with a snack in case I get hungry from all the scrubbing, painting, disguising, and scooping. You want to share my snack?

Actor 1: No thanks. I hope you didn't pay very much for that kit. Because you just wasted your money.

Actor 2: What do you mean?

Actor 1: You should have stayed at Rainbow Express until the story. You're right that sin is a big problem. But we learned that there's already an answer to the sin problem.

Actor 2: You're kidding.

Actor 1: Not at all. God promised a long, long time ago that He would save us from sin. That's why Jesus came to be our Savior. Jesus knew the only way to get rid of sin is to punish it.

Day One: Jesus is God

Actor 2: Oh no!

Actor 1: Don't worry. It's already been taken care of. Jesus never sinned. He never did anything bad, but He died on the cross. He was punished for *our* sins. We do bad things, but He took our trouble for us. That's how much He loves us. You don't need a Get-Rid-O-Sin-Whatever Kit. You need Jesus. He's the one, the *only* one, who can forgive our sins. He proved to us that He is God our Savior.

Actor 2: How did he prove it?

Actor 1: Lots of different ways, but our Bible Story today was one example. Here, I'll show you. (*Open the Bible and point it out to Actor 2.*) We learned this story today. I'll bet these kids can help explain it to you.

Use this line as a natural transition into the review question time.

Game Time/Snacks

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

Day Two: Jesus Forgives Sin

SUMMARY

- **Large Group**
 - Songs
 - Puppets
 - Testimony
 - Memory Verse: Loud and Soft
- **Small Group**
 - Story: The Healing of a Paralytic
 - Theme: Jesus Forgives Sin
 - Scripture for today's story: Luke 5:17-26
 - Memory Verse Review
- **Large Group**
 - Story review questions, Skit

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 being certain of who Jesus is. Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that we can be sure that Jesus Christ is our only Savior. 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.

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.

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

Day Two: Jesus Forgives Sin

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

Introduction of Today's Story--Building the Foundation

When the memory verse teacher is finished, the Large Group Leader will return to the front to provide a brief introduction to the day's theme and story. Each day you will re-introduce the concept that the Bible tells us 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 learning the truth about Jesus. Yesterday we learned that Jesus is really, truly, 100% God. He showed that over and over by the amazing things that He did, things that we know only God could do. Many, many people saw Jesus prove that He was God, our Savior. Those people began to tell others about Him. They wanted to follow Jesus' instructions to tell the whole world about His love.

These followers of Jesus began to travel all over the world, teaching that Jesus loves people and can save us. As they traveled, they talked to many people that believed many different things about God and about how to go to Heaven. They found people that believed in many different false gods or that thought they knew other ways to get to Heaven. Jesus loves all people, so He wants all people to know the truth. He wants us to know that He is the only way that we can go to Heaven. Jesus is the only Savior that can really take away people's sins.

The Bible tells us about what Jesus' followers had to go through to spread the Good News about Him through the world. In some cities they were treated kindly, but in many places they were attacked, thrown in prison, or driven out of town. Some of Jesus' followers were even killed. They didn't give up though. They wanted to make sure the whole world knew that trusting Jesus is the *only* way to be saved.

Just like Jesus' followers back then, we may hear lots of different stories about how to get to Heaven. People might tell us lots of different ideas about how to know God. We don't have to worry, though, because the Bible tells us the truth. We can trust that Jesus is the way to live forever with God.

Remember that yesterday we learned that Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote books to tell the truth about Jesus. In John's book he tells us about Jesus' last night before He was arrested and then killed on the cross. Jesus spent that night with His followers, teaching them one last time before His death and return to life.

That night Jesus told His followers very plainly that He is "the way, the truth, and the life". He reminded His followers that nobody goes to Heaven without Him. That is the Good News that His followers worked so hard to spread.

Today we're going to learn about a time some people did not believe that Jesus was the only way to Heaven. We'll see how Jesus proved that He really is the one that can forgive sin.

Day Two: Jesus Forgives Sin

Small Group Story Time

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

Today's Story:

While Jesus was with us on Earth, He told us over and over again that He had a special mission: to save people from sin. Jesus is the Savior that God had promised so very long ago. Some people did not believe this. A group of people called the Pharisees believed that they could go to Heaven just by being really, really good. They thought that if they followed all of the rules perfectly, God would have to let them into Heaven. There was a big problem with this: nobody except Jesus could be perfect. Even the Pharisees messed up and sinned. That's why Jesus came: to forgive us from sin.

One day Jesus was teaching the people. Jesus spent much of His time talking to people, explaining God's love in ways they could understand. Many people came to the house where Jesus was teaching. They were so excited to hear what He said that they came from all over the area. They also hoped they might see Jesus do something amazing. The Pharisees also came to listen to what Jesus said, but they did not believe Him.

A group of men in the village decided to take their friend to Jesus. The friend was paralyzed. He could not move his legs at all, so he could not walk or stand up. The man had to be carried everywhere he went. His friends laid him on a mat and quickly carried him to the house where Jesus was teaching and healing. They hoped that Jesus would heal their friend's legs so that he could walk.

When the men arrived at the house where Jesus was, they found that they could not get in. There were so many people there trying to see and hear Jesus that there was no room for anybody else. Every foot of the house was full, even the doors and the windows. The men did not give up. They believed that Jesus had the power to heal their friend, and they were determined to get to Him.

In the time that Jesus lived most houses had flat roofs that were used as another room. The men climbed on to the flat roof of the house, carrying their paralyzed friend with them. Think about what hard work that must have been! They used their hands to remove part of the roof. The people inside the house must have been surprised to see a hole appearing above them in the house. The friends tied ropes to the corners of the paralyzed man's mat. Then they lowered him down to where Jesus was teaching.

Jesus looked at the man lying on the mat. "Friend," Jesus told him, "your sins are forgiven." Jesus gave the paralyzed man the greatest gift of all by forgiving his sins. This was even better than being healed. The paralyzed man and his friends were excited.

The Pharisees became very angry. "Who does this man think he is?" They asked themselves. "Only God can forgive sins. If Jesus says He can forgive sins, then He's saying that He is God," they thought.

Jesus knew exactly what they were thinking. "Why are you thinking things like this in your heart?" Jesus asked the Pharisees. "Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk?'" Jesus was proving to the Pharisees that He was really who He said He was and really did have the power to forgive sins. He wanted to show them that He has the power to forgive (which they could not see) by showing His power to heal (which they could see). "So that you will know that I have power to forgive sins," Jesus turned to the man lying on the mat "Get up,

Day Two: Jesus Forgives Sin

pick up your mat, and walk home.”

As soon as Jesus said this the man jumped up. He was healed! He picked up the mat he had been lying on and carried it home, thanking God all the way home. Everybody at the house was amazed. “We have seen incredible things today,” they said.

Just imagine how excited the paralyzed man and his friends must have been that day. They trusted that Jesus would help them, and He did. The man who had never walked jumped and ran all the way home. That man received an even greater gift that day. Having his sins forgiven was even better news than having his legs healed. When our sins are gone, we are free to be friends with God and to one day live with Him in Heaven. That is why Jesus healed the paralyzed man’s sins.

The Pharisees did not believe that Jesus had the power to forgive sins. They knew that only God can do that. They did not believe that Jesus is God. Jesus healed the paralyzed man, which is something only God can do. They saw Him do that, but still refused to believe.

We can be sure that Jesus is who says He is. He proved many times that He truly was God, just like we talked about in yesterday’s story. In today’s story we see that, as God, Jesus also has the power to forgive sins. Aren’t we grateful that He loves us enough to do that? Jesus came to offer that same free gift for all of us. Yesterday we learned that Jesus truly is God. Today we see that He really is the one who can forgive our sins.

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

Prayer Time

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

Craft

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

Day Two: Jesus Forgives Sin

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:

Acts 4:12—Salvation is found in no one [but Jesus], for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Spanish: Hechos 4:12— Y en ningún otro [aparte de Jesús] hay salvación; porque no hay otro nombre bajo el cielo, dado a los hombres, en que podamos ser salvos.

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.

Each day you will provide a visual object lesson during your large group closing time that is designed to help drive home the day's theme.

Set-up for today:

Two Actors

A Bible

You need: A plain sheet of paper. As Actor 1 tells his story, He will fold the paper to go along with it. At the end, it will reveal a cross. There are pictorial directions on how to do this at the back of today's packet.

Actor 1: Rainbow Express has really been good today.

Actor 2: I thought so too. What was your favorite part?

Actor 1: I just love learning the stories about Jesus. It's really important to know that Jesus is the *only* way to go to Heaven.

Actor 2: I think so too. We should make sure everybody knows that.

Actor 1: You're right. Can I show you something cool? I learned how a normal piece of paper can tell a story about a man trying to figure out how to get to Heaven.

Actor 2: Okay, show me.

Actor 1: Well, we know that Jesus died on the cross because He loves us. He did this because He wants us to be able to live up in Heaven with Him. The only way to get to Heaven is by believing that Jesus died for you and asking Him to come and live in your heart.

Imagine there was a man who really wanted to go to Heaven but didn't know how. He decided to try lots of different ways. First he built a boat and set sail in the ocean to try and get to Heaven. (Fold one corner of the paper to line up the top edge with an edge on the side.) Do you think he made it? Nooo! When he saw that it did not work he tried building a big house. (Fold the top corner of the boat down to the opposite corner, creating another triangle.) He thought he could build a house that would be big enough to reach Heaven. Well pretty soon, he saw this house idea was not going to work. So he thought some more. Maybe I can fly an airplane to Heaven. (Fold the paper in half. Fold flaps on both sides down to the edge.) He flew and flew, but could not

Day Two: Jesus Forgives Sin

find Heaven. Then he thought, “Maybe if I go even higher and out into outer space I’ll find Heaven!” So he built a rocket ship. (Tear off both wings.) Do you think he made it? Nooo! When he came back, he was sad because everything he tried did not get to Heaven.

What do you think he should do? He needs Jesus? You’re right. Someone came and told him the good news. They told him how much Jesus loves him. All he needed to do was believe that Jesus died for him and ask Jesus to live inside his heart. (Open up the paper and show the cross.) When the man heard this he was very excited. Jesus loves us very much. That’s why He made the way for us to go to Heaven. Let’s thank Jesus that He has given us the way that we can live with Him.

Actor 2: That’s pretty awesome. Can you teach me how to do that? I want to learn how.

Actor 1: I’d be happy to, but learning about Jesus is the most important. Do you think you can remember everything from today’s story?

Actor 2: I don’t know. Probably.

Actor 1: Let’s see. I bet these boys and girls can help us remember.

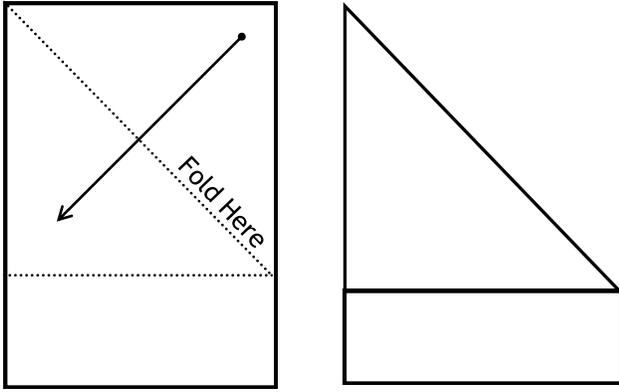
Use this line as a natural transition into the review question time.

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.

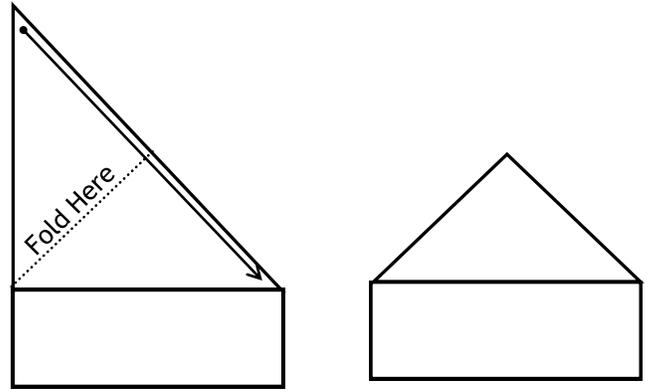
Game Time/Snacks

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.

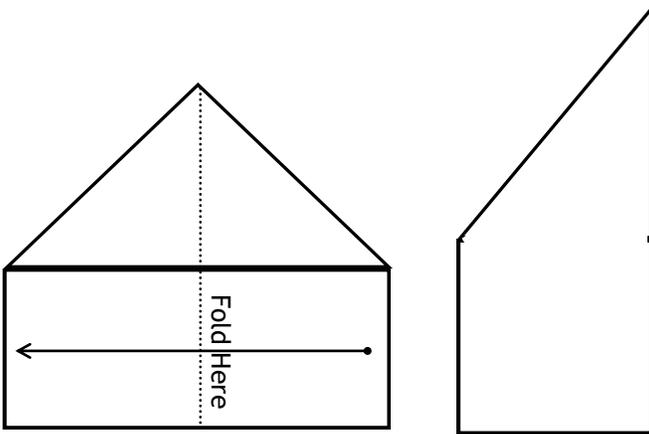
Step One: Fold top right corner down to the left as shown. This makes a sail boat.



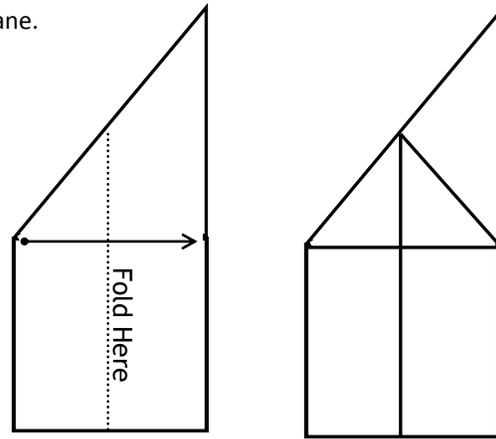
Step Two: Fold top left corner down to the right as shown. This makes a house.



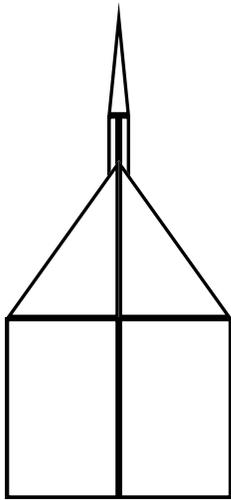
Step Three: Fold the right edge to the left to meet the left edge.



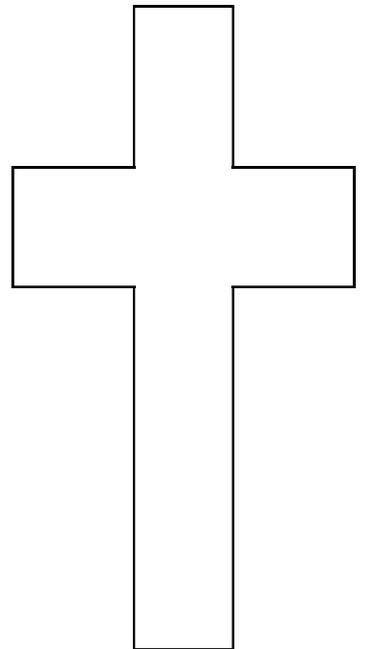
Step Four: Fold the top half of the house over to touch the right edge. Repeat for other side. This will make a small paper airplane.



Step Five: Tear off the wings of the airplane and unfold. This will make a cross.



Top View of the Airplane



Day Three: Jesus is All We Need to be Saved

SUMMARY

- **Large Group**
 - Songs
 - Puppets
 - Testimony
 - Memory Verse: Teams
- **Small Group**
 - Story: The Cross
 - Theme: Jesus is All We Need to be Saved
 - Scripture for today's story: Luke 23:32—24:8
 - Memory Verse Review
- **Large Group**
 - Story review questions, Skit

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 being certain of who Jesus is. Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that we can be sure that Jesus Christ is our only Savior. 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.

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

Day Three: Jesus is All We Need to be Saved

verse available. Read through the verse all together several times to practice. Divide your children into teams. Have the teams compete saying the memory verse many different ways: loudest, softest, fastest, slowest, telephone style, English, Spanish, with hand motions, etc.

Introduction of Today's Story--Building the Foundation

When the memory verse teacher is finished, the Large Group Leader will return to the front to provide a brief introduction to the day's theme and story. Each day you will re-introduce the concept that the Bible tells us 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've been talking about Jesus. We have learned that He really is who He says He is. The first day we learned that He is truly God the Savior. Yesterday we learned that Jesus came to forgive the sins of the world. He did this because He loves us and He wants to know each and every one of us personally. There is nothing more important or more special than knowing Jesus.

We learned that Dr. Luke wrote his book to help us know the truth about Jesus. That book became part of the Bible. It teaches us who Jesus is. It tells us about Jesus' love and how He cares for us. The Bible is one way that God talks to us and helps us get to know Him. It teaches us that Jesus' forgiving our sins is the only way that we can be together with God.

Some people have tried to tell a different story. They have said that God has a long list of things we have to do if we want to come to Heaven with Him. These people act as if God were a teacher, grading our lives to see if we pass or fail. That is not what Jesus told us. Jesus said that God loves us very much and wants all people to be with Him. In fact, Luke tells us that Jesus said "There is joy in Heaven over one sinner who turns away from sin." (Luke 15:10) That means that God is excited every time somebody asks Him to save them from sin.

There were some people that were very angry that Jesus taught this way. They hated Jesus and what He taught. They could not believe that God loves people so much. They decided to try to get rid of Jesus.

We have already learned several examples this week of what Jesus could do. He healed the sick, made the paralyzed walk, and told evil spirits to go away. He could have stopped those enemies from trying to hurt him. But God had a different plan. Jesus did something amazing to save all of us. Today we're going to learn what that is.

People may say lots of different things about how you go to Heaven. They might say that you need Jesus in your life, *plus something else*. They might say that you need Jesus plus go to a certain church. Other people say you need Jesus plus dress a certain way, or Jesus plus talk a certain way. We don't believe any of that. We know the truth that Jesus taught us: He made the one and only way that we can be with God in Heaven. Jesus is all we need to go to Heaven. Remember the words of Luke that we read the first day. God wants us to know for certain that what He says is true.

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

Day Three: Jesus is All We Need to be Saved

not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. Your goal is to be able to relate the story to a level children will understand. Use the wording included here as suggestions to help you make these concepts understood by elementary age children. Feel free to adapt these words to fit well with your own style.

Today's Story:

We have talked this week about the way Jesus lived His life. He spent all of His time helping others. He told people that God loves them. He helped us know how God wants us to live. He cured sick people and fed hungry people. Jesus lived a perfect life.

Even so, Jesus had enemies. We have already learned about the Pharisees. The Pharisees were the people that taught God only saves us if we follow a long set of very hard rules. They didn't like what Jesus said: that God loves everybody and being saved is a free gift. The Pharisees grew more and more angry as Jesus grew more and more popular. Finally, they decided to kill Jesus. They thought that killing Jesus would get rid of Him forever. They didn't know that dying for us was part of Jesus' plan all along.

Jesus' enemies arrested Jesus one night while He was praying. They held a trial where they told lies about Him. Then they took Him to the governor and told more lies. Jesus' enemies beat Jesus up. They hit Him, spit on Him, and pulled out His beard. All night long Jesus was lied about and mistreated. Finally, the next morning the governor agreed to give Jesus the death sentence. He gave Jesus' enemies permission to kill Him by nailing Him to a cross.

They took Jesus up to a place called Skull Hill outside the city. Two criminals were also scheduled to die that day. Jesus' enemies set up three crosses on the hill. They put one criminal on each side and nailed Jesus to the cross in the middle. They hammered big spikes through His feet and wrists. Then they watched and waited for Jesus to die.

Jesus' enemies must have thought that they had won. They thought that when Jesus died He would be gone forever. They didn't know that Jesus' plan all along was to die for us. Jesus took the punishment for all the sins that we do. Even nailed to the cross, Jesus was still in control, carrying out the special mission He came for.

While Jesus was nailed there, His enemies made fun of Him. "He saved others," they said "but he can't save Himself." The soldiers that nailed Him to the cross made fun of Jesus too. Even then, Jesus forgave them. Jesus even loves and forgives His enemies! Aren't you glad He loves and forgives us too?

Remember that there were two criminals being executed that day too. One of them started to make fun of Jesus too. "If you're really the Chosen One," the criminal yelled. "Save yourself, and save us too."

The other criminal told him to stop. "Don't you have any respect for God?" the second criminal asked. "You and I deserve what's happening to us, but He doesn't. Jesus hasn't done anything wrong." Then the second criminal looked straight at Jesus. "Jesus," he said, "please remember me when you come into your kingdom."

"I tell you the truth," Jesus told him, "you will be with me in paradise this very day."

Think about that for a moment. Jesus told that man that he would be in Heaven with God that same day. That man didn't do anything to earn Jesus' love. He was a criminal dying for his crimes. Even he himself said that he deserved to die for what he had done. But Jesus loved him and forgave him, right there on the spot. Remember what the Pharisees thought. They believed we have to earn God's love by following a list of instructions. Jesus proved over and over that He loves all of us, no matter who we are. His love is a free gift to us all. All we have to

Day Three: Jesus is All We Need to be Saved

do is accept the gift.

After six hours of hanging on the cross, Jesus died. They took His body down from the cross. Some of His followers wrapped His body in clean cloths and laid Him in a cave. A huge rock was rolled across the opening to seal it shut. Everybody thought they would never see Jesus again.

On the third day, something wonderful happened. Jesus returned to life! He got up and walked out of the cave. He had taken away our sin by taking our punishment, now He beat death by coming back to life. Jesus is a truly great Savior. He spent forty days visiting His followers to prove to them that He was really alive again. After the forty days, He went back to Heaven.

Isn't it amazing how Jesus made a way to save us? He loves us so much that He gave His own life to take away our sins. What do we have to do to earn that? Nothing! Remember the thief on the cross. Jesus saved and forgave Him as soon as the thief believed Jesus and asked to be saved. Jesus makes us the same promise. When we believe in Him and accept Him, He forgives our sin and saves us. It's a free gift from Him. Nothing else can add to it or take away from it. Aren't we glad that Jesus made the way to Heaven for us?

If you want to understand more about how to let Jesus save you, please ask 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 that sometimes we do bad things that the Bible calls sin. A sin is anything that we do that God does not want us to do. God still loves us, even though we sin. That's why Jesus came. Jesus died on the cross to be punished for our sins. Then on the third day He came back to life. Now, for anybody who asks, Jesus will take away our sins and become a part of our lives. He will help us to follow Him. The Bible says that if we believe Jesus in our hearts and follow Him, He will save us from our sin and help us to follow God. Then one day we will be with Him in heaven. Anybody that wants to choose to follow Jesus can do that today. We would love to help you know how.

Prayer Time

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

Craft

While still in your small groups, lead the children in making the craft for the day. The craft time is 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 bracelets.

Salvation Bracelets

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

For instructions on how to make today's craft, see the following pages. Step by step instructions on which order to put the beads on the bracelet and bilingual explanations of the colors' meanings are included. You will also find optional hand out pages to give the children to help them remember the meaning of the bracelet. During this

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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:

Acts 4:12—Salvation is found in no one [but Jesus], for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Spanish: Hechos 4:12— Y en ningún otro [aparte de Jesús] hay salvación; porque no hay otro nombre bajo el cielo, dado a los hombres, en que podamos ser salvos.

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.

Day Three Object Lesson:

Each day you will provide a visual object lesson during your large group closing time that is designed to help drive home the day's theme.

Set-up for today:

Two Actors

A Bible

Eight backpacks. Stuff with clothing or something similar so they look full. Label each one in large letters with colored tape or fabric paint. Label one with each of the following words: Parachute, Bricks, Basketballs., Forks, Dog food, Grass, Books, and Band-aids

Have Actor 2 wearing all 8 backpacks: one on his back like normal, one on his front, one over each shoulder, one attached to each arm, and one attached to each leg. Actor 2 should be awkwardly and with much difficulty

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walking across the front. Actor 1 walks up, Bible in hand, and watches with amusement. Suddenly Actor 2 trips and falls. Actor 1 rushes over and helps him up.

Actor 1: What in the world are you doing? Why do you have all these things strapped all over you?

Actor 2: Don't you remember? Today's the big day.

Actor 1: Oh that's right. You're going skydiving today. I have to admit, it's pretty brave to jump out of a plane with just a parachute. But what's in all these bags.

Actor 2 (proudly): I'm glad you asked. See, a bunch of my friends knew I was going skydiving today. I was getting ready to leave, and all I had was this (*show the "Parachute" backpack*).

Actor 1: All you had was your parachute? But isn't that all you need?

Actor 2: That's what I thought at first too. It seems so simple: use a parachute when you jump out of a plane. But my friends gave me all these other ones too. They explained that *really*, I needed way more than a parachute. So these are going to help me.

Actor 1 (skeptically): You look like you can barely move. I don't think these are helping you. In fact, I'm pretty sure they might hurt you if you actually tried to jump out of a plane with all of these on. Let me help you take them off. Let's see what's in them. (*As you mention each label, remove that backpack and show it to the children.*) Oh my goodness, this one is *really* heavy.

Actor 2: Yeah, it has bricks in it.

Actor 1: Bricks!? There's no way that would help you.

Actor 2: I'll admit that I was confused by that. But the others make more sense.

Actor 1: Let's see. This one says basketballs.

Actor 2: Right. So I'll bounce when I hit the ground.

Actor 1: There is absolutely no way that would work. What's in this one?

Actor 2: Umm . . . that's forks.

Actor 1: Forks. You're going to jump out of a plane with a backpack full of forks. You don't think they might, you know, poke you when you land.

Actor 2: Hmmm . . . You know what? You're probably right. I didn't really get this next one either.

Actor 1: The one full of dog food? I don't think there's anything to get about that one. I think your friends were playing a trick on you. This one is full of grass.

Actor 2: Grass is soft to land on.

Actor 1: You have a backpack full of grass blocking your parachute from opening.

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Actor 2: You're right. That doesn't seem wise.

Actor 1: It's not. And this one's heavy too. It's full of books.

Actor 2: Books about skydiving. They said that way I could study on the way down.

Actor 1: On the way down, it's already too late.

Actor 2: I should have thought of that. This one is full of band-aids.

Actor 1: Well, you would have needed those if you jumped out of a plane with all this other stuff. Why did you let them trick you like this? This parachute is the only one you need.

Actor 2: I know, I know. I just listened to them without thinking about it, I guess.

Actor 1: When you already know the right way, you don't need a bunch of wrong ways. Think about it. You know that there is only one way to go to Heaven, right?

Actor 2: Right. You have to ask Jesus to forgive your sins. He'll be happy to do it, because He loves us so much.

Actor 1: Exactly. You know that Jesus is the only way to Heaven. You wouldn't let people tell you that you had to do a bunch of other stuff to go to Heaven, would you?

Actor 2: Of course not. There's only one way: Jesus' free gift. Adding anything else doesn't make sense.

Actor 1: Right. Well, adding all this other stuff didn't make sense either. You already have a parachute. That's what will save you. Don't let people tell you that you need something else. Just like Jesus is who will save us. We won't believe that we need anything else.

Actor 2: You know what, that really makes sense.

Actor 1: It's just like what we learned in our Bible Story today. Jesus is all we need. He can save us. It's a free gift. I bet these boys and girls can help explain it to you.

Use this line as a natural transition into the review question time.

Game Time/Snacks

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

Day Three Craft

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**dark /
oscuro**

Sometimes I do bad things that make God sad.

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

**red /
rojo**

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

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

**white /
blanco**

Jesus can take away all the bad things I do.

Jesús puede quitar todas las cosas malas que hago.

**green
/ verde**

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

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

**yellow /
amarillo**

One day I will be with Jesus in Heaven.

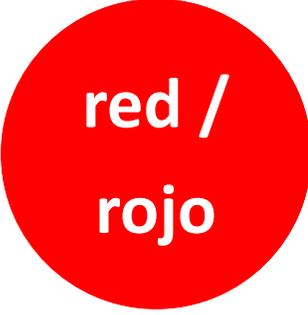
Un día estaré en El Cielo con Jesús.



dark /
oscuro

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

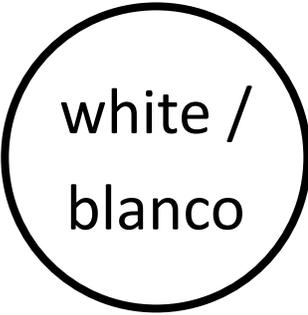
Pues todos han pecado y están privados de la gloria de Dios. Romanos 3:23



red /
rojo

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

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



white /
blanco

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

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



green
/ verde

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

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



yellow /
amarillo

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

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

Day Four: Jesus is for Everybody

SUMMARY

- **Large Group**
 - Songs
 - Puppets
 - Testimony
 - Memory Verse: Next Word Relay
- **Small Group**
 - Story: The Banquet and the Centurion's Servant
 - Theme: Jesus is for Everybody
 - Scripture for today's story: Luke 14:16-23, Matthew 8:5-13
 - Memory Verse Review
- **Large Group**
 - Story review questions, Skit

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 being certain of who Jesus is. Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that we can be sure that Jesus Christ is our only Savior. 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

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: Jesus is for Everybody

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.

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

This week we have learned that we can be sure of the truth about Jesus. The first day we learned that Jesus truly is God, just as He showed His followers on the mountain. The second day we learned that Jesus is the only way to go to Heaven. He proved to the people that He has the power to forgive sins. Yesterday we learned that being saved by Jesus is a free gift. We can’t earn it; we just have to accept it. Today we’re going to see that free gift is for everybody who wants it.

In Jesus’ day there were many who believed that God only loved certain people. They thought God’s love was only for everybody from one race, or church, or maybe it depended on how much money you had or what your job was. Others thought God only loved people that lived in a certain area or that spoke a certain way. Jesus told the people over and over that was not true. He said plainly that God’s love is for everybody, no matter who they are.

Just like back then, there are people today who don’t understand that God’s love is for everybody. Some people think that only other people like themselves can be loved by God. Some people even think that only a certain number of people will be allowed to go to Heaven. We don’t have to worry, though. Jesus told us many times that His love is for all people. All we have to do is accept the free gift that He offers us.

In today’s story we’re going to see how Jesus showed His followers that His love was for everybody, no matter who they were.

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 Four: Jesus is for Everybody

Today's Story:

One day Jesus was eating at the house of one of those people who did not think that God loves everybody. This man thought that people that lived in the country where Jesus lived would automatically go to Heaven. He did not understand that they needed Jesus to forgive their sins. The man also thought that others would not go to Heaven. He did not understand that Jesus loves everybody, no matter who they are. Jesus told him a story to try to help him understand God's love.

"A rich man prepared a huge dinner and invited many of his friends and neighbors to come," Jesus said. "When it was time for the party, the man sent his servants to go pick up the guests for the party.

"When the servants arrived at the guests' house, they found that the guests weren't ready to go. The guests started making excuses. One guest said he had to go look at a field he had just bought. Another said that he was going to pick up some animals he had paid for. Another guest said that he had to stay home with his wife.

"The servant went back and told the rich man that his invited guests weren't ready yet for the party. The rich man was angry. His guests did not accept the invitation to come to his beautiful house or eat his wonderful food. So the rich man gave the servant a new plan.

"Go into the city and find all the poor people, the homeless people, the people without any food or money. Bring back hurt people, blind people, and people that can't walk. We're going to have this party for anybody that wants to come, not just my neighbors."

"The servant did what his boss said. But there was still room in his master's huge house. So next, the master sent the servant out to the streets and the countryside. 'Bring back everybody that will come,' the master said. 'None of my neighbors will have a bite of my marvelous feast, because I'm going to fill my house up with everybody that will come.'"

Jesus told the story to make a point. Just like the rich man, God invites *everybody* to come to His house. No matter who we are, all people can ask Jesus to forgive our sins. All people can be friends with God and one day live with Him in Heaven.

Jesus proved over and over that His love was for everybody. Once Jesus was teaching in a city called Capernaum. A soldier lived there who was a commander in the army who had conquered Jesus' home country. The soldier, who most of Jesus' friends and neighbors thought of as an enemy, came to Jesus.

"Master," the soldier said, "I have a servant who is badly hurt and suffering."

"I will come to your house and heal him," Jesus told the soldier. He wanted to help, even though the man was from an enemy army.

"I don't deserve to have you come to my house, Master," the soldier replied. "But I know that if you just say the word, my servant will be better, even though he is far away from you."

Jesus was amazed. This enemy soldier believed in Him with more trust than many of Jesus' own friends and neighbors. "Go home," Jesus told him happily. "I have healed your servant, just like you trusted me to do."

Some of Jesus' followers were probably surprised that He helped this man from another country. But, just like in the story of the rich man's feast, the gifts and love of Jesus are for anybody who will accept them, no matter who we are.

Day Four: Jesus is for Everybody

God loves you and me just as much as that soldier so many years ago. He wants to help us when we believe in Him, just like He did for that soldier. When we trust Jesus to do it, He will forgive our sins and save us. We're kind of like the people that got invited to the rich man's banquet. We don't really deserve to go to Heaven because of all the bad things we have done. The people at the feast didn't really deserve to go either. The rich man invited them just because he wanted his home to be full and people to enjoy his feast. God invites us to Heaven just because He loves us. He wants Heaven to be full of people that love Him back. All we have to do is accept Jesus' invitation.

If you want to know how you can trust Jesus that way, just ask us. We would love to help you know how.

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

Prayer Time

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

Craft

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

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:

Acts 4:12—Salvation is found in no one [but Jesus], for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

Spanish: Hechos 4:12— Y en ningún otro [aparte de Jesús] hay salvación; porque no hay otro nombre bajo el cielo, dado a los hombres, en que podamos ser salvos.

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

Day Four: Jesus is for Everybody

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.

Day Four Object Lesson:

Each day you will provide a visual object lesson during your large group closing time that is designed to help drive home the day's theme.

Set-up for today:

Two Actors

A Bible

A really ridiculous, mismatched outfit for Actor 2: mismatched shoes, colorful mismatched socks. An ugly T-shirt, a necktie, a long coat, shorts, multiple hats stacked on top of each other, etc. The more items and the more diverse the items, the better. Begin with the two actors walking along together, talking.

Actor 1: So, I don't want to be rude or anything, but I have to ask you a question.

Actor 2: Of course.

Actor 1: Why are you dressed so funny today?

Actor 2: Oh, I had to. It was super important.

Actor 1: Super important? Why?

Actor 2: So Jesus would love me. Don't look so surprised. This is pretty much exactly how you have to dress if you want Jesus to love you. My friends told me.

Actor 1: Your friends told you that? These wouldn't be the same friends that helped you get ready for skydiving yesterday, would they?

Actor 2: Yes, as a matter of fact, they were.

Actor 1: We've got to find you some better friends. All right, explain this to me. I already know from the Bible that Jesus loves you no matter what, but let's hear your explanation.

Actor 2: Well, my friends told me Jesus only loves people with shoes like this.

Actor 1: Your shoes don't even match.

Day Four: Jesus is for Everybody

Actor 2: Yeah, that was a tricky part. See, technically, one of my friends said Jesus likes shoes like this one on my left foot. A different friend told me about this shoe on my right foot.

Actor 1: I see. And the socks?

Actor 2: Umm . . . 2 more friends.

Actor 1: Of course. The tie?

Actor 2: Other friend.

Actor 1: Sure. The coat? That doesn't make you hot?

Actor 2: Very much so . . . but I *really* want Jesus to love me, so I had to wear it.

Actor 1: When am I going to convince you to stop listening to those guys? Remember, the whole truth of what we need to know about Jesus is right here in the Bible.

Actor 2: Does it talk about these socks?

Actor 1: Not at all. In fact, it says pretty much the opposite. The Bible says that Jesus loves everybody, no matter what. (*Open the Bible.*) In John 3:16 it says that God loved the world so much that He sent His only son so that everybody, no matter who they are, that believes in Him will be saved to live forever with Him in Heaven

Actor 2: It says that? Anybody? No matter who they are?

Actor 1: No matter who they are. Or what they wear, for that matter.

Actor 2: Now I really wish I weren't dressed like this.

Actor 1: We all wish that. But, good news: Jesus even loves you even when you're dressed like that. His love is for absolutely everybody that will accept it.

Actor 2: That's amazing.

Actor 1: It's exactly what we learned about at Rainbow Express today. I bet these boys and girls can tell you all about it.

Use this line as a natural transition into the review question time.

Game Time/Snacks

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

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.



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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