



Baseline

God

How does God Deal with us?

Ministry Gifts

Using the gifts God has already given

The Miracle of Divine Healing

The ways God heals us

Angels - God's Special Agents

The ministry of Angels

The Reality of Satan

The Deception of Satan

How the enemy deceives people

Is Jesus Ever Coming Back?

Reward And Punishment

The Comin King and Judgement

Where We Stand With God

The act of justification

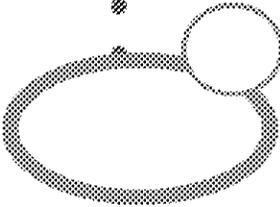
Set Apart For A Special Purpose

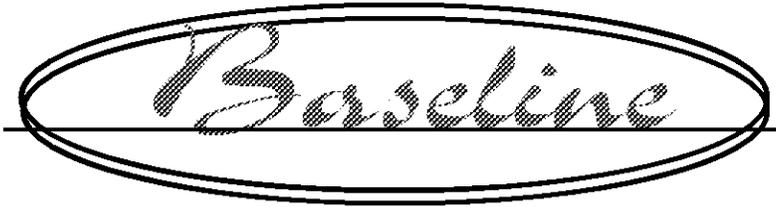
The fact of sanctification

Cleaning Up Our Act

The process of personal holiness

Fun Night - skateboarding





Baseline

Just a few words regarding this third unit of Baseline:

First, we have changed two lessons that are listed on the tab. Since this unit is theology based, we changed the lesson about Ministry Gifts to the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. We have also added a special holiday lesson about the Day of Pentecost.

Second, we have tried to assist you in working with the middle school age group so we have included a section called Road Rules. These are guidelines for class activities and discipline.

Finally, we would like to extend a special thanks to our contributing editors:

Rev. Rick Wulfestieg, Director of the Foursquare National Department of Christian Education

Becky Anderson, Administrative Assistant for the Foursquare C.E. Dept. and 1997 L.I.F.E. graduate

Rev. Vicki Brobeck, Pastor, Rancho Cucamonga Foursquare Church, M.A. Theology, M.A. Marriage and Family Therapy

Dr. Mary Lou Canata, Foursquare Children's Ministry Field Consultant

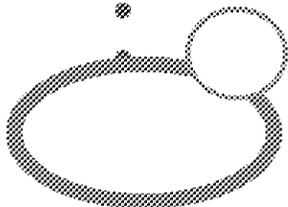
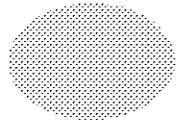
Rev. Darrel Fraley, Author, speaker and Children's Pastor at New Hope Community Church

Rev. Rod Light, Resource and Training Development for the Foursquare C.E. Dept.

Rev. Lynn Sawyer, Northwest District C.E. Representative

Marcene Trujillo, Research Editor

Patti Wulfestieg, Baseline Project Coordinator



Baseline is developed by the Foursquare National Christian Education Department.

For additional Baseline units, T-shirts or teaching resources please contact:

National Department of Christian Education 213.989.4270

Foursquare Resource Center (orders only) 800.992.7444



Baseline Road Rules

The key to cooperative learning is for kids and adults to agree that ...
Everyone in the group will have a good time
No one will have a good time at the expense of another
Everyone will abide by the same code of conduct

To insure a pleasant group environment, we encourage the following:
Post a code of conduct made up of four or five general rules
Have a clear consequence established for repeat violations of the code
Provide consistent and caring enforcement of the code of conduct

You may choose to use the following statements as part of your code of conduct:
Respect each other
Hands off of others and their stuff
Help out when asked
Pray

This code has purposely been left general to make application in your group easier. If one of the items doesn't fit or you need to add something, go ahead. The idea is to provide a list of expectations for everyone that can be easily followed and enforced with fairness.

Decide ahead of time with your helpers, co-leaders or support team what specific consequences you will enact for kids who violate the code. A few suggestions are given here but be creative and stay focused on the goal: to encourage the kids to cooperate with you and with each other.

Adult presence (someone hangs out close to the kid)

Chill Out (a few minutes outside the room)

Try Again in Two Weeks (can't return to the group for one or two meetings)

If a kid is removed from the group for any length of time, the group leader or staff person should schedule a meeting with the parent(s) and the kid to attempt a time of personal ministry which may result in a corrective path and eventual restoration to the group.

Baseline Road Rules

Tips for Beginning the Group Without Problems:

- 1. Spend time with the kids as they arrive. Have supplies equipment prepared and in place so that the kids see a friendly face greeting them rather than a frantic, confused out-of-control leader..*
- 2. Be excited and enthusiastic about the group time you have planned. Your attitude will determine a large portion of the success of the meeting.*

Tips to Avoid Possible Misbehavior:

- 1. Fit activities to the size of your group. Just because you can fit everyone around one giant table is not a good reason to do it. People in this age group learn more and are better behaved in several small groups (up to eight kids) than in one big group.*
- 2. Have a teacher/ leader participate with small groups, if possible. Pre-teens need the physical presence and participation of an adult to help them stay on task.*
- 3. Give clear directions -- and maybe a demonstration -- of what the kids are to do.*
- 4. Give appropriate recognition to kids while they are doing what you want them to. Smiles, pats, winks and words of affirmation are potent allies in helping these kids do what is right.*

Issues We Would Rather Not Discuss, But Must

Drugs

The Bible gives us direction regarding using, selling or distributing drugs. Romans 13:7 instructs us to be subject to the civil authorities since they are ordained of God. In obedience to this scripture, we encourage Baseline groups to report all violations of drug use, sales, or distribution to local law enforcement agencies.

Personal/Sexual Harrassment

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are to respect all people and treat them with the same dignity Jesus would extend. This position eliminates any possible excuse for intimidation or harrassment of any description in the classroom. Adults and kids should be consistently reminded of our responsibility to one another to edify and help each other. Any attempt to harm, intimidate or harrass anyone in the group should be strongly dealt with and redirected.

Weapons

The Baseline group should be a place of security, learning and mutual sharing. Therefore, weapons of any description do not belong and will be confiscated and, if necessary, turned over to either the parent or to law enforcement officers.

Personal Abuse

Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse is never acceptable and must be carefully responded to. Leaders of the Baseline group must be properly interviewed, screened and fingerprinted to provide proper protection for the kids in the group. For details on procedures for screening leaders, contact the National Foursquare Department of Christian Education at 213.989.4270.

Baseline leaders should know that they are considered by most states to be mandated reporters of suspected child abuse. For clarification on this issue or for guidelines of reporting, contact the national child abuse hotline or your local child protective services agency.



LESSON AIM To understand the character of God.

KEY VERSE "That all the peoples of the earth may know the Lord is God and that there is none else." 1 Kings 8:60

ITEMS NEEDED Pencils/ Paper/ Bibles Photocopies of "The Perfect Father"
Signs: "always trust" "sometimes trust" "sometimes distrust" "mostly distrust"

DECLARATION OF FAITH



Any study of the characteristics or attributes of God is very vital, for it is certain that God does not exist merely as a great immobile Head-piece of the Universe. We come into intimate contact with Him and have definite responsibilities toward Him. Every thought and action is known and seen by Him. All that we are and do has a relationship to Him. God's benefits are wholly in keeping with His character. He cannot contradict His essential **nature.**

GROUP INTERACTION



Place the signs (listed above) on walls in the room. Ask the class the following questions and have them move to the sign that represents their opinion. If they are in between these choices, then have them stand in the middle of the choices.

- I trust the police to always be fair.
- I trust my friends with any secret I share with them.
- I trust my parents to keep me safe.
- I trust the media to tell the truth.
- I trust my teachers to give me a good education.

Tip:

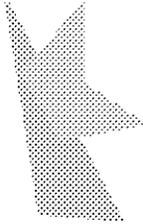
Be sensitive to the kids' responses. Embarrassment, indecision, or distrust may be a clue to further issues that could be discussed privately at a later time.

We have just found out how much you feel you can trust people around you. Now let us see how much you feel you can trust God.

- I trust God to help me through rough times.
- I trust God will always hear my prayers.
- I trust God to provide all my needs.
- I trust God to forgive me when I have done wrong.

INSTRUCTION TIME

Sometimes it's hard for us to think about God loving us or caring for us. Perhaps people we know have hurt us or disappointed us. Many times we relate God, our Heavenly Father to our earthly parents. This could be positive or negative. But what is God like? How do we know we can trust Him? How should a perfect father act? The following moral attributes of God describe His character in relation to man.



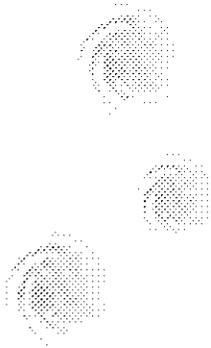
Holiness

By the holiness of God we mean that He is separated and exalted above all His creatures, and He is equally separated from evil and sin. It is important that we grasp the realization of the holiness of God. We cannot have right thoughts about Him, about ourselves, or about the world in general until we realize that God is holy. Everything that God does is a result of His holiness. We have learned of God's infinite power and His infinite knowledge, but we also need to recognize His infinite purity. Holiness describes the character of God. Knowing that God is holy will help us understand why God does what He does, and trust what He will do in the future. "No one is holy like the Lord, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God." I Samuel 2:2

Righteousness and Justice

While holiness describes God's character, righteousness describes God's actions or conduct. God's righteousness always conforms to His holiness. This means that God cannot go against his nature. God always acts right, never wrong, that is why God is referred to as just or fair. Because of God's righteousness and justice:

- 1) *He will always be loving and fair in His discipline to us when we disobey. "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face." Psalm 89:14*
- 2) *He forgives the sins of those who approach Him with repentant hearts. He already sent a substitute for our punishment—His only Son, Jesus. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9*
- 3) *He keeps His promises. When God gives His word there is nothing in heaven or earth that can make Him change it. "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through Him the 'Amen' (so be it), is spoken by us to the glory of God." 2 Corinthians 1:20*
- 4) *He rewards the righteous. The entire nature of God is behind His promises. "For you, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield." Psalm 5:12*





Love

The love of God is definitely taught by the Scriptures. Our God is so strong in His love that He is constantly interested in the physical and spiritual well-being of His creation, and makes sacrifices beyond human understanding to reveal that love to them. It is, however, not a mere emotional impulse, but a rational and voluntary affection. It is grounded in truth and holiness and He exercises it freely. This love finds its primary objects in the following:

- Jesus experienced God's love. God made it clear to others that He loved Jesus. "This is my Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17
- Believers experience God's love. Faith in, and love for the Lord Jesus automatically places that person in the center of God's love. "For the Father himself loveth you, because you have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God." John 16:27
- Sinners experience God's love. Here is the demonstration of the love of God which is impossible to fully understand. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

The most important outgrowth of a proper conception of His love, is that we will love Him. "We love Him, because He first loved us." I John 4:19

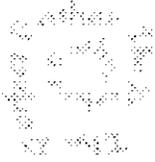
Mercy

Mercy (*chesed*) means loving kindness, unfailing love, faithfulness. This Hebrew word *chesed* appears 250 times in the Bible. By the mercy of God we mean His goodness is revealed to those who are in misery or distress. Compassion, pity and loving kindness are other terms in Scripture that mean practically the same thing. Mercy is an eternal quality in God as an all perfect being; it can be shown to both the obedient and the disobedient. Mercy is the constant environment of the child of God. Since God reveals this characteristic to His children, he expects us to reveal mercy to others. (Micah 6:8). The phrase, "His mercy endures forever" is used 26 times in Psalm 136. God wants to show us mercy - it is His nature.

Faithfulness

The essence of God's faithfulness is that He will never abandon us. He is never distracted when it comes to watching His children. He is completely trustworthy. His promises will be totally fulfilled. He cannot let us down. God always demonstrates love in His actions to us. Our part in this is to trust Him and believe He is with us in every situation. His Word cannot change - He is faithful. Our own faithfulness increases when we believe in Him and act accordingly. "He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:24

INVESTIGATION



Photocopy "The Perfect Father" and have the class complete the blanks by looking up the Scriptures. The class may work as individuals or in groups. These answers should reinforce the loving characteristics of God.

Answers: (they don't have to be exact)

John 14:26 (teaches)

Psalm 139:1 (knows)

Psalm 145:20 (watches over)

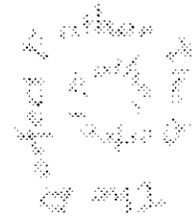
Jeremiah 33:3 (responds)

James 1:17 (good gifts)

Matthew 6:26-34 (provides)

Psalm 149:4 (enjoys)

Psalm 46:1 (strong enough)



TAKING HOME THE TRUTH

Godly
Graffiti

If you have time, place butcher paper along one of the walls of your classroom. Have each student write a word or phrase that describes the character God. You could go a step further and have them write a scripture reference for that characteristic.

THE PERFECT FATHER

God is a Father Who _____ His children.

John 14:26

God is a Father Who wants to _____ his children.

Psalms 139:1

God is a Father Who always _____ His children.

Psalms 145:20

God is a Father Who _____ to His children.

Jeremiah 33:3

God is a Father Who gives _____ to His children.

James 1:17

God is a Father Who _____ for His children.

Matthew 6:26-34

God is a Father Who _____ His children.

Psalms 149:4

God is a Father Who is _____ to help His children.

Psalms 46:1





LESSON AIM

To understand that the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of Christ's promise.
 To realize that the infilling of the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to praise and glorify God.

KEY VERSE

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..." Acts 1:8

ITEMS NEEDED

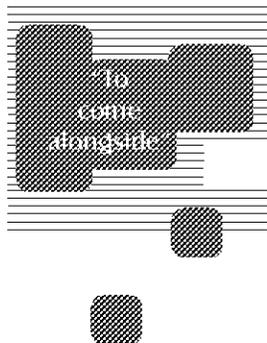
*Pencils/ Paper/ Bibles
 Photocopies of "Plug in to the Power"*

DECLARATION OF FAITH



We believe the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of Christ's promise of a Comforter; One who will give the believer power to glorify and exalt the Lord Jesus; to help the believer witness of Him; to foster the spirit of prayer and holiness; to equip the believer and the church for practical, efficient, joyous, Spirit-filled **soul-winning.**

GROUP INTERACTION



We are suggesting two options for this relay, one for large groups and one for small groups, choose the one that suits your needs.

Relay race option for large groups. Set up an obstacle course much like a slalom ski course. Use chairs or makeshift flags for the boundaries. Form two teams of equal numbers. One team will be instructed to hop on one foot through the course. If they touch the floor or course boundaries with the other foot, they will have to start over. The other team will run through the course twice with **ONE DIFFERENCE:** They will go through the course as pairs. One teammate will help the "hopper" through the course by holding the person up. See which team is faster.

Tip:

This investigation may be difficult or overwhelming to some students. You could write out the scriptures ahead of time on sheets of paper with the word underlined, then have them do the investigation or you could list the words on a visual board and go through the words together.

Relay race option for small groups. Proceed with the obstacle course. However have a single team go through the course only by hopping. Use a stop watch to time them. Then have them go through again matching a teammate with a partner. One person hops while another person holds them up. See how much faster they are. After the relay ask this questions:

Which team had an easier job? Why?

We learned from this activity that it was easier to get through the obstacles when we had a helper--someone to hold us up or give us strength.

This is the reason the Holy Spirit was sent--to help us and bring out the best in us. (John 14:26)

INVESTIGATION

There will be a lot of words introduced in this lesson that the students may not understand. Listed below are some vocabulary words as well as the Scripture in which they are mentioned. Break your class into groups where they are sitting. Provide Bibles and various kinds of dictionaries i.e. Websters, Bible dictionary, Thesaurus. Give each group one or two words to define. Have them write the definitions and then explain what it means in the Scripture. As you present the lesson have a spokesperson for that group explain the word to the rest of the class. Note: Comforter and Counselor come from helper (parakletos.)

Baptize (Acts 1:5)	Comforter (John 14:26)
Endue (Luke 24:49)	Promise (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4, Acts 2:38,39)
Utterance (Acts 2:4)	Testify (John 15:26)

INSTRUCTION TIME**Who is the Holy Spirit?**

The Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead. Matthew 28:19 says "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." It doesn't say names, it says name, referring to one person. In John 14:26 and 15:26 Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as "He" and "Him." Jesus also refers to the Holy Spirit as a Helper. The Greek word for Helper is parakletos or "one who is called to your side." Parakletos signifies an intercessor, a comforter, a helper. As in our opening activity, we performed better when we had a helper.

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Christ knew that when His time came to leave the earth in bodily form, His followers would be devastated. His disciples had developed a relationship with Jesus as a person, but now it was time to know Him in a spiritual sense. They needed to learn that He would be with them wherever they went. In John 14:25, 26 Jesus says that the Father will send the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name. In John 16:7 Jesus says "...I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you." Right before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He left His disciples with these words from Luke 24:49 "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." That is the purpose of the Holy Spirit - to endue our lives. The Holy Spirit is a PROMISE from God--we can expect God to deliver on His promises.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Display the word BAPTIZE on a board or overhead. Allow the class to discuss what they think it means, then have the spokesperson read the definition.

The first record of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit occurs in Acts. The disciples had obeyed Jesus' instructions and were waiting in the upper room with great expectancy. In Acts 2:1 They were "with one accord," or together. The group had recalled Jesus' promise, Acts 1:5 says "...but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Then in verse 8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Then something wonderful happened! God came through on His promise! In Acts 2:2-4 it says that a sound came down from heaven as a mighty rushing wind (it wasn't actually wind) then tongues as of fire appeared to them and a language was given to each one of them. (There was not actually fire as some pictures have portrayed, but the tongues spread like fire does, quickly and re-ignites itself.) This fulfillment of God's promise was so amazing that it was probably difficult to describe and difficult to imagine today. But the witnesses saw something happen! Acts 2:4 says that they began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. This experience gave those believers the power to serve and minister for the Lord.

The Power Spreads

There are several other incidents of an outward sign when people are baptized with the Holy Spirit. One example is recorded in the Book of Acts chapter eight which shares the account when the Samaritans had received the Holy Spirit. The sorcerer, Simon wanted to cash in on this power so he asked the apostles to lay hands on him so that he could pray for others to receive the Holy Spirit and charge them money. The explanation is that there had to be an outward sign of speaking in tongues when the Samaritans were baptized because the sorcerer realized something was different with the Samaritans.

POWER

POWER



Another example is Acts chapter 10:44-46 When the Gentiles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and spoke with tongues and magnified God. Again, in Acts 19:4-8, Paul prayed for the believers in Ephesus and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. The scripture also says that these people spoke boldly for a period of time persuading others of the truth. This pattern reveals that these people received a prayer language when filled with the Holy Spirit. The infilling with the Holy Spirit produces a boldness to "be" a witness for God to other people.

What does it mean to us today?

It is God's desire that we be filled with the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:13

The Holy Spirit is part of God. I Corinthians 2:11

The primary function of the baptism with the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer is to produce a life-style that is a witness of God's power; and share that change with others. "Be a witness." (Acts 1:8)

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit we can expect the evidence of speaking in an unknown tongue. There are other signs that should follow, such as the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23).

Encourage children who receive their prayer language to pray everyday in that language. It strengthens them (1 Corinthians 14:4, Jude 20).

TAKING HOME THE TRUTH

Photocopy the student activity page called "Plug in to the Power." Help the students understand the benefits of being filled with the Holy Spirit. The answers given below should be a springboard for more discussion.

1 John 4:16, Romans 5:5 - a greater understanding of God's love for us.

Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 4:4 - expands our ability to be living evidence of the resurrected Christ.

Romans 8:26,27, 1 Corinthians 14:2 - a prayer language that is between you and God and the devil can't understand.

Acts 10:46, 1 Corinthians 14:15 - an increased awareness to praise and worship God.

Note: Another sign of the fullness of the Holy Spirit is the nine operational gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. These will be covered in year two under Church Foundations.

"Plug in
to the Power"



Plug in

1 john 4:16/romans 5:5

There are specific things that can happen as a result of being baptized with the Holy Spirit. Look up the scriptures in each box and write one of the things which can happen after we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

2 corinthians 4:4/acts 1:8

to the

1 corinthians 14:2/romans 8:26,27

acts 10:46

Power

Divine Healing

Psalm 103:3



LESSON AIM

To understand that God is the Divine Healer.
To know that the miracle of healing is still available today.

KEY VERSE

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases." Psalm 103:3

ITEMS NEEDED

Pencils/ Paper/ Bibles

Definition written on paper

Table salt/ hot water/ paint brushes

or toothpicks for Invisible Ink message

Medical items (interaction)

Photocopies of "Conditions for Divine Healing"

DECLARATION OF FAITH

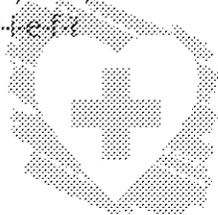
We believe in divine healing, which means being made well by God, Who is divine (powerful, deity, supreme). Divine healing is the cure of physical sickness by the direct power of God. The greatest of doctors is God. There is no sickness or disease which is too hard for Him to heal. He has all the answers and knows all about our bodies because **He made us.**



GROUP INTERACTION

Place several medical items on a tray and cover with a cloth or small towel. Allow students about 20-30 seconds to memorize the items. (Allow more time for more items). Cover the tray again and give them one or two minutes to write down as many of the items they remember.

How do you spell
r-e-l-i-e-f?



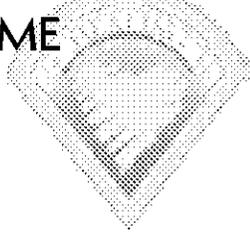
Suggested items:

eye glasses
bandaid
first aid cream
thermometer
eye dropper
white tape
ace bandage
Alka seltzer ®

scissors
cotton ball
two aspirin or vitamins
tongue depressor
gauze
iodine
tweezers



INSTRUCTION TIME



Divine Healing Promised by God Exodus 15:26b

As we took a few minutes and tried to memorize the objects on the tray, what common theme did the objects represent? (They are used to help people feel better when they are sick or injured.) These are some of the items that man created and what man uses to heal. Do we realize that our Heavenly Father wants to heal us? Divine healing is the cure of physical sickness by the direct power of God.

From the very first book of the Bible to the last book, God's promises of divine healing may be found. God made a covenant with His people to heal them. "...For I am the Lord who heals you" (Exodus 15:26b). King David thanked God for healing in Psalm 103:1-3. Jesus went about healing people. "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people" (Matthew 9:35). The books of Acts tells us about the many times people were prayed for and they were healed.

Divine Healing is Available Today Mark 16:15-18

We can receive divine healing because of what Jesus did on the cross. The prophet, Isaiah, had a vision of the suffering that Jesus would go through on the cross, but also what that suffering meant to us, "and by his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:56) Peter, a follower of Jesus, actually saw the beating suffered by Jesus. He wrote: "Who (Jesus) himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree...by whose stripes you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24) It says you WERE healed--that means Jesus already did this for us. Many people don't believe the miracle of healing is possible today, but God's word has not put a time limit on his healing. In Mark 16:15-18 Jesus clearly states that those who believe will experience miracles. It does not say that it will end at any time. The book of Acts lists many miracles experienced by those who believed in Christ and God's Word.

Tip:

Many people wonder why they have not been healed or why a loved one has not been healed. It is not our duty to figure out why God allows certain things to happen, but it is our duty to respond to His decisions by trusting Him. Job never turned his back on God even though he suffered greatly. Paul ministered mightily though he suffered "a thorn in the flesh." We walk in faith believing that God is in control--no matter what.

God's Instruction for Healing James 5:13-15

In Jesus' Name - *When we pray for someone, we are to ask for healing in Jesus' name. "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:13). The early Christians, especially in the Book of Acts, used the name of Jesus when they prayed for the sick.*

Call upon the elders - *The key verse in James 5:13 instructs us, "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." The instructions in this verse state that if we are sick we need to call for someone to pray for us. The one needing healing can call on the Lord in faith and receive healing without asking for the elders. However, the point is that this represents a step of faith on the part of the one needing healing--to publicly ask and to publicly believe.*



Anoint with oil - This does not refer to a medicinal act or to a magic potion, but is symbolic of the dedication of the sick person and the joyous presence of the Holy Spirit. This verse stresses God's healing power through prayer that accompanies the anointing.

The prayer of faith - here the faith represents a special anointing that is granted to one or more of the elders to believe for the healing. Sometimes we are so sick or weak from our illness that we need the strength of someone else.

Save - in this instance, refers to physical restoration not salvation.

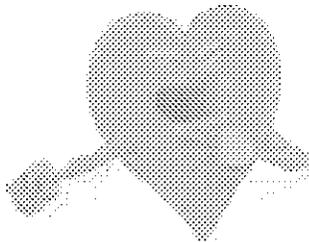
In order to receive healing we must believe: "Jesus said to him, if you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23) We must believe the following:

- That Jesus died on the Cross and by His stripes we were healed.
- That Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.
- That God will always keep His promises and do His part in divine healing.
- That we can be healed today when we ask in faith.

Pass out photocopies of Conditions for Healing. These conditions were taken from "A Reader on Healing and Wholeness" published by International Church of the Foursquare Gospel L.E.A.D. Department. The scriptures listed below are conditions for healing, although, they would be good to understand for any prayer. Answers are listed below:

INVESTIGATION

Are there conditions to being healed?



- Matthew 18:19 If two agree concerning anything they ask, it will be done. (This includes bodily healing.)
- Matthew 21:22 Whatever things you ask...believing. (The assurance that a prayer of positive faith will be answered.)
- Mark 11:22-24 Have faith in God ...when you pray, believe. (This passage makes it clear that faith without doubt in prayer for healing brings positive results.)
- John 14:13-14 "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." (If we take the Bible for what it says, then anything means "healing" as well as other requests. When you ask in the name of Jesus, that is recognizing that Jesus is Lord.)
- John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. (We should be living in His will, that means to respect our bodies, forgive offenses, love one another, don't hold grudges, and resist temptations.)

TAKING HOME THE TRUTH

Salt water
invisible ink

Mix one teaspoon salt and one teaspoon hot water to make the ink. Dip a toothpick or paintbrush in the ink and write a prayer request lightly on a piece of paper. Let the message dry for at least one half hour, then give it to a prayer pal. He or she can make the message reappear by rubbing it with a pencil.

Since it takes so long to dry you could have the student write the message after the opening activity and then have the prayer partners reveal the message to each other at the end of class and then pray for each other. (Make it clear that requests are confidential. To gossip about a prayer request is a sin and that person will have to answer for it.)

Look up the Scriptures below and fill in the words that describe the condition that needs to be met when praying for healing.

Matthew 18:19

Matthew 21:22

Mark 11:22-24

John 14:13-14

John 15:7

Conditions for healing
Divine Healing Investigation

divine
healing

Angels ... Agents Undercover



LESSON AIM

To understand that angels are a creation of God and reveal His loving nature.

To realize that there are different types of angels with different purposes.

KEY VERSE

"Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, heeding the voice of His word." Psalm 103:20

ITEMS NEEDED

Pencils/ Paper/ Bibles

Photocopies of Angels, God's Secret Agents

Butcher paper/ felt pens/ crayons for alternate activity

DECLARATION OF FAITH

There is an order of celestial beings which occupy a position quite distinct from that of either God or Man; they are called angels, because they appear in Scripture as messengers of God to man. The only source of information which we have of their existence and activities is the Holy Scriptures; mysticism and philosophy have no word of authority whatever. Angels are among the "invisible" things which God created and possess every feature of personality. That they occupy a prominent place in God's providential administrations is indicated by the frequency of their mention in the Bible. The Old Testament refers to them 108 times while they are mentioned 165 times in the New Testament.



GROUP INTERACTION

Job description for an angel

Divide into groups, provide pencils and paper. Have the group write a job description for an angel. List qualifications, duties, rewards, drawbacks. Bring them together and have them share one or two things on their list. Then discuss how we perceive things of God and what is truth from God's Word.

INSTRUCTION TIME

What are angels?

The word "angel" means messenger or ambassador; someone dispatched to do a task or relay a message (Strong's #4397). Holy angels are messengers of God. Angels are created beings that praise and worship God. (Psalm 148:2,5)

Their nature is superior to human nature; and they have superhuman power and knowledge. They are not, however, all powerful or all-knowing. For example, they do not know the time that Jesus is coming back to earth. (Matthew 24:36)

Angels are spirits. In Hebrews 1:14 it says, "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?" A spirit does not have flesh and bone as you and I have. They do not have to relate to time and space as man does, but each angel is only in one place at one time, or several angels at one place at one time.

Angels exist to serve God. They are unable to do things that are not consistent with the nature of God. Matthew 18:10 says that angels see the face of the Father in Heaven. This would not be possible unless they had the nature of the Father. They do not go against what God's Word says. Holy angels cannot act without the permission of God. Psalm 103:20-21 says that the angels do His word. This brings up questions about the fall of Lucifer and the angels who chose to go with him. Angels were created with a free will. But according to systematic theology authors, this seems to be a one-time occurrence. Once the angels made the choice to stay with God and worship Him, they became such a part of His nature, they wouldn't think of not serving Him and therefore, cannot. Again, they have the nature of God if they see his face.

There have been visitations of angels, when they assumed the form of human bodies, but they did not become a human being. Hebrews 13:2 says, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." This verse suggests that angels appeared as humans. (The investigation activity at the end of this lesson will allow the kids to look up scriptures that reveal angelic visitations to people.)

Angels are referred to as a company, not as a people, a race, or as gender. When the Bible refers to angels as "he" or "men," it is because this is considered a generic term. Angels do not reproduce (Matthew 22:30); nor do they die, there is no increase or decrease in their numbers. However, angels are innumerable. They cannot be counted. (Hebrews 12:22, Matthew 26:53 Revelation 5:11)

Angels abide in heaven. (Mark 13:32, Luke 2:13-15, John 1:51) They do come to earth to make appearances to man, but heaven is where they live.

There is an organized structure in the Angelic Realm: The Angel of the Lord (preincarnation of Christ), the archangels-Michael and Gabriel, the Cherubim and Seraphim which are winged angels, the guardian angels and the messenger angels.

Tip:

Preincarnate is a new word for kids, yet it is a vital word to understand, especially when discussing Christ in the Old Testament. In a regular dictionary, the word preincarnate is not listed, however, incarnate is. Have the kids look up incarnate and the prefix "pre" then discuss what "pre-incarnate" means.

The “**Angel of the Lord**” as the preincarnate Christ, is only mentioned in the Old Testament. This Angel appeared to Moses (Exodus 3:2) and Hagar as she was fleeing Abraham (Genesis 16). This Angel is the only one that received worship. It is important to know that this Angel was Christ before He was sent down to earth to be born as a man. New Testament references to an angel of the Lord is a ministering angel because Christ to come to earth to minister.

The **archangel** or chief angel, Michael (whose name means “Who is like God?”) is mentioned specifically on four occasions – Daniel 10:13, 21, Jude 9, Revelation 12:7-9. He defended the people of Israel. Gabriel means “the mighty one.” The Bible does not name him as an archangel though he is often referred to as one. He is mentioned as bringing news of God’s purposes. See Daniel 8:15-27, Luke 1:13, 19.

All angles do not have wings; as we said earlier when they appear to man, it is as another human being. There are angels that have wings – **Cherubim and Seraphim**. The Cherubim guarded the entrance of the Garden of Eden, Ark of the Covenant, the Holy of Holies. They protected the things of God from man. The Seraphim is considered the “fiery angel” not that they were angels of fire, but amber colored in appearance or fiery in motion. They are closely related to the throne of God and the praises of God, see Psalm 148:2, Isaiah 6:2,3.

Guardian angels are assigned to protect man. Psalm 91:11-12, Matthew 18:10 and Acts 12:7-11 share specific incidents of protection by God’s angels.

Messenger angels bring news from God. In Acts 8:26, Philip heard specific instructions from an angel. In Luke 1:28, an angel told Mary of her special assignment of giving birth to Christ. In Luke 2:8-15 a company of angels shared about the birth of Christ to the shepherds. There are many more instances of angels bringing God’s message to his people.

INVESTIGATION

Angels - God’s Agents

Pass out photocopies of the student handout “Angels - God’s Agents.” Have the students look up the scripture that relates to the specific angelic visitation.

ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

Give each group a piece of butcher paper and crayons or felt tip markers. Have the group discuss and draw a cartoon depicting a situation in which they think an angel would either intervene or minister. Have them provide scriptural backing for their depiction if it is not mentioned in the lesson. You are trying to find out how much truth or myth your kids know about angels.

archangel

A fun activity would be to list the word ARCHANGEL on the board then pass out pencils and paper to the kids either as individuals or as groups and have them come up with words of four or more letters from that word. The goal is that the word has to describe the type of angel or what an angel does. EXAMPLE: care, hear, glean, etc.

Angels - GOD'S AGENTS

Who
did
these
appear
to?

Luke 1:18, 19

Genesis 18:1-3

John 20:11, 12

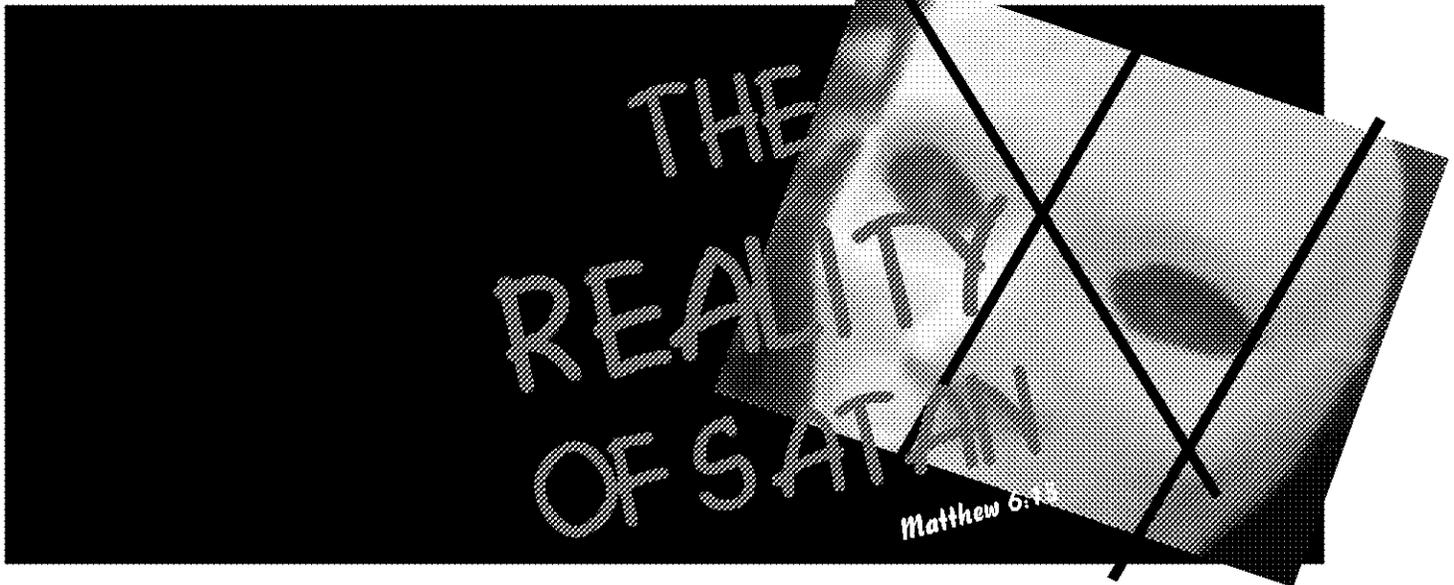
Acts 12:7,8

Luke 2:8-15

Daniel 3:24-25
(The preincarnate Lord)

Matthew 4:10, 11





LESSON AIM

To understand the truth about Satan.
To realize that in God we have nothing to fear from Satan.

KEY VERSE

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." Matthew 6:13

ITEMS NEEDED

*pencils/ paper/ Bibles balloons/ string
helium tank (rented or small one purchased from a club warehouse)
weighted objects for each kid to hold in one hand (can of soup, brick or stone)*

DECLARATION OF FAITH

Adapted from the
Spirit-filled Life Bible,
Thomas-Nelson
Publishers



Satan was once an angel called Lucifer, who, in love with his own beauty, fell into pride and self-centeredness. His rebellion manifests in five "I will" statements addressed against God (Isaiah 14:13,14). But vv 15-20 reveal that God has the last word, as the Most High makes five responses "Satan, you will: 1) be thrown into hell; 2) be gazed upon as a spectacle; 3) be talked about (mocked, scorned); 4) be cast out of your grave like a carcass; and 5) be alone." God's "last word" on Satan is still applicable to any challenge he attempts to bring against any of the people of **God.**

GROUP INTERACTION

Don't let him
bring you down.



Note: If you have a large group, you might need two helium tanks to facilitate everyone. Also the balloons will need to be released outdoors for the full impact. Give each student a piece of paper and a pencil. Have them write a fear they have on the paper (i.e. being alone, not being loved, death, etc.). Then have them insert the paper into a balloon and blow it up with helium. Have each student hold the object (see above) and balloon in their hand at arm's length. After a few seconds it will become very heavy. Explain that fear is Satan's way of holding us back and keeping us from experiencing God's love and peace. Then have them release both objects. The heavy object will fall and the fear will float toward heaven.



INSTRUCTION TIME

In Strong's concordance #7854 *satan* is defined as: An opponent; the hater; the accuser; one who obstructs, and hinders whatever is good. Explain that the object lesson reveals how we can be obstructed. Satan is not just his name but what he is--a hateful enemy. He does not want us to feel free or feel release, rather, he wants us to be burdened. One positive point: mankind did not witness Satan's beginning, but by God's design, we shall see his end.

Who God created

When God created the angels, He also created Lucifer (Son of the Morning). Lucifer was perfect, full of wisdom and beautiful. (Ezekiel 28:12)
Lucifer was given special musical ability. (v.13)
Lucifer was given a special adornment (v.13)
Lucifer was placed in a high position among the angels. (v. 14)
God did NOT create Satan as an evil being.
Lucifer became Satan by his own choices.

What went wrong

Then something happened. Lucifer got too self-centered, too power driven, too jealous of God. Isaiah 14:12-14 records Lucifer's fall and the five "I Will" statements he makes in regard to his rules to have a relationship with God:

- I will ascend into heaven.
- I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.
- I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the furthest side of the North.
- I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.
- I will be like the Most High.

These are very haughty statements to make regarding the person who loved you and brought you into being. He thought he was better than God! Satan chose to separate himself from all the Heavenly hosts; to ignore God's plan. How did God respond to these statements in Isaiah 14?

You shall be brought down...to the lowest depths of the Pit. (v.15)
This is not only the opposite of what satan claimed, it is worse--he will be cast into the deepest pit--a scary thing.

Those who see you will gaze at you. (v. 16) Another term is to narrowly look. Like looking through a telescope to see the stars clearly ... there will be no mistake about what they are seeing.

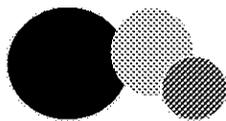
And consider you by saying, "Is this the man who made the earth tremble..." (v.16,17) He will be laughed at and mocked. His captives, or demons will not be loosed from their prison.

You are cast out of your grave like a carcass. . . (v 19) Not that he has a grave, but to be treated like a dead body with no grave--stepped on. Branch refers to a useless sucker that grows from the root of a tree -- that takes life from the root but produces no blooms or fruit.

Not joined with them. . . (v. 20) Not buried with his princes as in a military battlefield. His seed will not be known for ever, he will not have future generations.

Tip:

Many people believe that satan is more a state of mind rather than a real person. This is one trick he uses to get control of people's lives. He was a real being with feelings of pride, rebellion and hate. Jesus came to us to help us overcome the evil one.

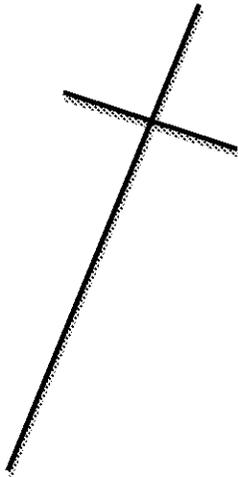




When Lucifer refused to respect, obey and worship God he had to be cast out of heaven. When we let these kinds of feelings take over our lives, we make stupid decisions. Lucifer gave up peace and prominence--He had become satan, the opponent of God!

Scriptural record of his existence

It has become popular to speak of him as a "figure of speech" or a "personification of evil." It is certainly to his advantage to have his existence denied so he can deceive more people. If someone does not believe he is real, they will not recognize his deceptions, and will be unable to guard against his attacks. In the Bible Satan is described as a person.



Recognize his limitations

He is not omnipotent. Satan's power is limited. Though he is not all powerful like God, don't underestimate the power of the devil. He has had thousands of years experience dealing with mankind. He does have great power (more than man), but God is more powerful. Satan is no match for God. I John 4:4 says "Greater is He that is within you than he that is in the world." Never overestimate his abilities either--Satan cannot make you do something.

Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head, and you will bruise His heel." God sent Christ, the "seed" of the woman, the only Son of God, to accomplish His great Victory over the power of the enemy. This is causing satan to work even harder to destroy mankind. After all, Satan did not choose to be on earth (refer to the "I will" statements). Satan is only here because God allows it. God has allowed satan on this earth for one reason--that in the final victory, God will show Satan that all his lies and efforts were for nothing.

Tip:

As you discuss satan's limitations, list them on a whiteboard or overhead.

His power is limited.

He can only be one place at one time.

His knowledge is limited.

Revelation 1:17,18 tells us that Jesus actually has the keys of Hades, and of death. Any power demonstrated by Satan is his because God allows him that power; he is a created being (just like angels). Therefore, Satan cannot give life or raise anyone from the dead. Satan is already condemned to death by God who controls life and death. He may disguise his demons to look and sound like the spirit of a dead person, but it is just an imitation. Satan cannot raise anyone from the dead. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who conquered death, has control over Satan.

Satan is not omnipresent. He can only be in one place at one time. It seems like he is everywhere at once, but that is because he has his demons. Only God is always everywhere. Also remember, God's angels outnumber demons 2-to-1! In 1 Peter 5:8 it says that the devil **walketh about** seeking whom he may devour. He is also like a roaring lion, seeking to intimidate and destroy, but making you aware that he is there by his roar. You can prepare for his attack! Call out to your Heavenly Father.

Satan is not omniscient. Satan's knowledge is limited. He may know a lot, just from his dealings with man, but he obviously doesn't know everything or he wouldn't be in the mess he is in, trying to take everyone down with him. It is important to realize that satan CANNOT read your mind. Only God knows everything about you. Psalm 139:1



INVESTIGATION

Defeat of satan



Photocopy the "Defeat of satan" pages. Have the students look up the verses and place the answer in the box. The point is to see how satan has progressively been put into lower depths and bondage as a result of his disobedience and pride. He tries to bring us down with him. But God is watching and waiting for the right time to spring the final defeat on Satan.

TAKING HOME THE TRUTH

What is evil?



Discuss the different ways satan is portrayed in movies, television, on music album covers, even in video games. If you are comfortable with doing this, try to bring in video game magazines or a video game cover to illustrate your point.

- How do those images affect you? (Some may say that they don't affect them.)
- What is the point when these artists, or shows portray evil in this manner? (Less fearful, less threatening?)
- Do these images ever cause you to think of a loving Heavenly Father? If not, could this be the reason for these images?

The Ultimate Defeat of Satan

Ezekial 28:14, Luke 10:18

► Where Lucifer started:

His pride and disobedience took over...

HE WENT DOWNHILL FROM THAT POINT:

► Satan's place after the Fall:

WHO, IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD MAKE SUCH A CHOICE?!

Genesis 3:1-15, Isaiah 14:12

► His temporary pit:

IT IS SO DEEP, HE CAN'T FIND AN END.

Revelation 20:1-3

► Where God will allow him to roam for a short time:

JUST TO PROVE TO HIM ONE MORE TIME THAT HIS POWER IS NOT GREATER THAN GOD'S POWER.

Revelation 20:7-8

► Satan's final destiny:

WE WILL SEE HIS FINAL DEFEAT!

Revelation 20:10-15, Matthew 25:41

the DECEPTION of the DEVIL

LESSON AIM

*To understand how the devil deceives us and makes us feel unloved.
To know that we have power over satan's deception.*

KEY VERSE

"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:4

ITEMS NEEDED

*Pencils/ Paper/ Bibles
Photocopies of Jeremiah 29:11 (master provided)*

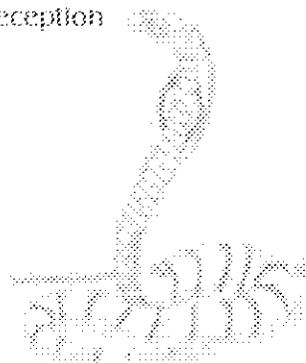
DECLARATION OF FAITH



It has become quite popular to speak of the devil as a mere "figure of speech," or a "metaphorical personification of evil," or "a delusion of unsound minds." Interestingly, this is true only in Christian lands where the name of his Conqueror (Jesus) is known. It is certainly to satan's advantage to have his presence denied so that he may be enabled to work more subtly in deceiving mankind, and easier for him to disarm their judgement.

GROUP INTERACTION

Deception by
deception



There are two options you could choose. One of them could be uncomfortable, but very effective. The other one is more group oriented.

This first activity will demonstrate that words of encouragement strengthen a person while words of discouragement or defamation will weaken a person.

Option 1: Ask two secure adults ('A' and 'B') and one student from your group to help with this activity. Have adult 'A' stand with their arms extended out to their sides. Have adult 'B' stand in front of 'A' and insult him or her. (This is why you have to have emotionally secure people). After just a minute of this, have the student try to press down on 'A's' arms. Adult 'A' should have a weakened resistance. Now have adult 'B' praise adult 'A' for a minute. Have the student press down on 'A's' arms. The resistance should be stronger.

Option 2: Break into groups. Give a sheet of paper and pencil to each group. Give them the following scenario: They have just captured a person who is considered their enemy. Without any physical torture or drugs, they must break down the resistance of that person and try to convince them to leave their country. How would they do it? (Chances are the methods would be psychological. They would have to deceive the person, make them feel like their country would abandon them, etc.)

The point of the interaction is that satan weakens us and draws us away from God and understanding God's love for us. The devil deceives us into thinking that he isn't so bad or that he doesn't exist. Thus, we don't prepare ourselves to battle him. If satan can get us to believe that we are worthless or that God doesn't love us, this will pull us away from our Loving Father Who is also our source of strength. We need to recognize his methods and learn to resist the devil.

INSTRUCTION TIME

The devil is a being

Many modern teachers refer to the devil as "evil" or an idea, but not as a being that can do us harm. This detracts from the reality of satan. But the Scriptures testify to the person of satan. Personal pronouns such as he and him and you are used in reference to the devil. (Matthew 4:10) If you were to describe a person, you would use those same pronouns: he, she, him, her, etc. Personality descriptions, such as liar, enemy, and the "evil one," are also used in reference to the devil; you would describe a person you know in the same manner by saying he or she was nice or mean.

There are also personal acts that he does such as slander, accuse, tempt and deceive. Created beings DO things; they are active. Satan never makes his actions obvious. He doesn't want us to believe that he is a being capable of such actions. Would you want to be a friend of someone who would tell you that you weren't good enough or that you didn't belong? It is important to know what God's Word says about satan.

God is truth and makes us aware of satan's weapons and his tricks. If you want to defeat an opponent, you have to know that opponent's strategy. For example, a professional fighter will watch tapes of another fighter to learn how he moves and punches. Police study the habits of criminals to learn how to apprehend them. We do not need to watch the devil in action through movies or music to know what he is like. God's Word tells us what the devil is like and how to resist him and his tricks.

Danger

DO NOT ENTER

He tempts us

First, he is known as the tempter. The name tempter indicates satan's goals for deceiving us and how he strives to cause us to sin. In Matthew chapter four, the devil tempts Christ by saying "If thou be the Son of God..." He tries to "dare" Jesus into doing what he says. However, Jesus realized that if He did what satan said, even to prove His own power, He would be obeying satan. Jesus did not let pride get in the way of obeying God, His Father.

Sometimes satan does it by direct suggestion as in the case of Judas Iscariot when he betrayed Jesus, (John 13:2). He made it clear he was tempting Judas. Judas was not forced to do what the devil said, but he did. Judas regretted it so much that he hung himself. What is so sad is that Jesus would have forgiven Judas had he asked.

Other times his demon agents will disguise themselves as messengers of God. (1 John 4:1) It is important to know God's Word. He reveals that these messengers take the emphasis away from God and instead points to man. The lie is "Man can be as good as God." A lot of religions preach this message.

Yet, other times, he will tempt people with their own weaknesses. Ananias and Sapphira were so greedy they withheld from the church and then lied about it. (Acts 5:1,2) Satan tempts men for the purpose of destroying them, but God tests men for their good, so that they may learn and become stronger, just like a police officer or a soldier. Though satan can tempt us--he can't MAKE us do anything. He does NOT have that kind of power over us. 1 John 4:4 reminds us that "greater is God in our lives, than he that is in the world (satan)."

The devil deceives us

The devil is referred to as the "Angel of Light." He appears to be something good when in reality he is something bad. One of satan's tricks is to convince people that they can know the future. Psychics and fortune tellers DO NOT receive their predictions from God. They are in contact with the demonic realm. 1 Corinthians 2:14 states that the natural man (who doesn't follow God's Word) does NOT receive the things of the Spirit of God. Psychics only make predictions based on your past life. The only future satan has for you is to have you as his prisoner in Hell!

Seeking a psychic to foresee your future means you are not trusting God. Another thing is that they cost money. Whether you call on the phone or go in personally, you have to pay. God's Word for our lives is FREE! If He has chosen not to reveal something to us, He has good reason. We must trust God for our future, not try to work things out for ourselves. Jeremiah 29:11 state that God plans for us are good, not evil.

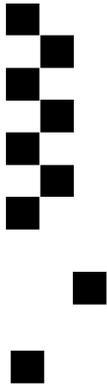
The devil lies to us

Satan is also known as the father of lies. In fact, he is the best liar of all time. In John 8:44 Jesus describes the devil by saying that he lies because "there is no truth in him." He does not lie in obvious ways. His specialty is sneaky lies that we don't discern (or that aren't revealed to us.) Again, when he tempted Jesus he quoted Scripture (Matthew 4:6). But he used the Scripture in a sneaky way. He did not use God's Word the way God actually meant. John 8:45 says that Jesus tells us the truth and we don't believe it. We see that many people do that with the Bible today; they try to make it mean something else than what God intended. If God says something is wrong, people cannot make it right. Numbers 23:19 says that God CANNOT LIE. We must understand that God's plans for us are good; so don't believe the lies of satan. If we know God's Word, we won't be deceived by the devil.

RECEIVED
DANGER
DEVELOP
DANGER



INVESTIGATION



Make two signs: "GOD" and "devil." Place them on a wall. Have squares of paper ready with one of the following Scriptures written on the top of each paper. Break the class into three or four groups and assign three or four Scriptures to each group. Have them read the verse, then write one to three words that describe the character or actions of God or the devil.

Allow five to ten minutes for them to complete the Scripture search. Have each group select a representative to read the Scripture and characteristic(s) aloud. They will then walk up to the wall and place the square under the appropriate sign. Suggested answers are below, but some Scriptures may have a few descriptions, of which any or all would be appropriate.

Deuteronomy 32:4
perfect, truth, just, right

John 8:44
liar

John 3:16
love

Matthew 10:28
destroys

Psalm 27:1
light, salvation, strength

Ephesians 6:12
darkness, evil, enemy

James 1:13
does not tempt

Matthew 4:1-3
tempter

John 3:17
no condemnation, salvation

1 Timothy 3:6
condemnation

1 John 1:5
light

2 Corinthians 4:4
*blinds; or light if they see it
as a characteristic of God*

TAKING HOME THE TRUTH

Help the kids memorize Jeremiah 29:11 using memory games, simple repetition or a creative rhythm. Photocopy the verse below for each student. Offer an incentive if they still know the verse at your next meeting. Suggest they carry it in their notebooks or put it in their locker at school.

God's
for us

For I know the thoughts
that I think toward you,
says the Lord, thoughts
of peace, and not of evil,
to give you a future
and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

Is Jesus Ever Coming Back?

John 14:2,3

LESSON AIM

To understand that Jesus will return for His people.
To recognize that Jesus will rescue His people from sin for eternity.

KEY VERSE

"... I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:3)

ITEMS NEEDED

Bibles / pencils / paper
Three dozen balloons (1 dozen each of red, blue and yellow)
Photocopies of I'm Ready for Jesus skit (master provided)
Photocopies of Rapture Promise Cards (master provided)

DECLARATION OF FAITH

We believe that the Second Coming of Christ is personal and imminent; that He will descend from Heaven in the clouds of glory with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God; and that at this hour, which no man knoweth beforehand, the dead in Christ shall rise, then the redeemed that are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall they be with the **Lord.**

GROUP INTERACTION

Purchase a dozen balloons each of red, blue and yellow. Divide the kids into three teams and give each team all the balloons of one color to blow up and tie. Explain to the kids that you will scatter all the balloons on the floor. Then tell them that at your signal each team will attempt to rescue all the balloons of their color while trying to pop all the balloons belonging to the other team. The kicker is they can only use their hands to rescue their own balloons. They cannot use hands to pop balloons. They can use feet, knees, hips, shoulders, but not hands to pop balloons. Reward the team with the most rescued balloons.

INVESTIGATION

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Once all the balloons have been rescued or stomped, have the kids sit down in their teams, grab their Bibles and read Matthew 24:5-14. Instruct them to identify which of the following choices will be actual signs of the soon return of the Lord Jesus. You might want to write the choices on a chalkboard or have a printed list for each group.

False messiahs
 Deterioration of the ozone layer
 Lying prophets
 Lying politicians
 Tornadoes
 Wars
 Rumors of wars
 Extreme violence
 World hunger
 Tall buildings in every major city
 Earthquakes in various places

Our heavenly Father has worked everything out for the return of His Son Jesus. The first part of His plan is the Rapture. Rapture means to be caught away and the Apostle Paul tells us just how the Lord will come and catch us away with Him. The rapture is the time when Jesus will return to take the Christians, both living and dead, out of this world.

INSTRUCTION TIME

Jesus promised to come back for us John 14:3

Read John 14:1-3 aloud. The Bible speaks often of God's plan to rescue His followers from the sin and sadness of this world. He wants a relationship with us for eternity. He wants a relationship with us that is face to face. One day very soon Jesus will return for His people and take us to Heaven to live for eternity.

Sometimes we get discouraged living in this world and waiting for Jesus to come for us. Jesus disciples must have felt a similar sadness. Jesus was telling them it was time for Him to return to God, His Heavenly Father. Some of the disciples had just started to follow Jesus. They felt like they hardly had a chance to get to know Him and now it was time for Him to leave? One thing they knew for sure: Jesus never breaks a promise! If He said He would return for them, they knew they could count on His word.

Tip:

The skit has been written with no reference to gender, so boys or girls could take any part and whatever name they might like.

Being With Jesus Forever John 14:3b,4

Read the next verse from John 14. "...where I go you know, and the way you know." Sometimes we might not want Jesus to return for us -- at least not right now. Often the thought of heaven seems boring, especially to kids. We might have things we want to accomplish which would be interrupted by the return of Jesus.

When the skit is finished, follow up with the following discussion questions:

- * What things do you want to accomplish in your life?
- * How can being with Jesus for eternity exceed your dreams?
- * Is it hard to think beyond the natural world?
- * Will God ever disappoint us? Now? In eternity?

Be sure to include any discussion questions which occur to you as you prepare and study for this lesson. As you lead the discussion, remember to stay focused on the lesson aim: To understand that Jesus promised to return for His people and to recognize that Jesus will rescue His people from sin for eternity.

What Will Happen When Jesus Returns 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

Read aloud 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 17. Suddenly Jesus will appear in the sky! Jesus will come in person and when He comes an angel will call out to His coming, and the trumpet of God will sound. Every Christian, living or dead, will hear the angel's voice and God's trumpet. The Bible says the dead in Christ, the Christians that have died, will rise first. They will have new and perfect bodies.

After we are raptured with Jesus, we will take part in a very special banquet called the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. It is going to be like a celebration. The word "lamb" represents Jesus who is like a lamb which was offered as a sacrifice. The banquet is called the "Marriage Supper" because we believe that the Christians together make up the bride of Christ. Jesus is our bridegroom and when the rapture occurs it will be like the bridegroom coming to take His bride (all born-again Christians) with Him to celebrate the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb."

Encourage the kids to seriously consider the question below. After several minutes of reflection, discuss their thoughts and insights.

Suppose for a moment that God announced to the world He would be sending Jesus back (the rapture) at noon tomorrow. What would you do between now and noon tomorrow?

**TAKING
HOME THE
TRUTH**

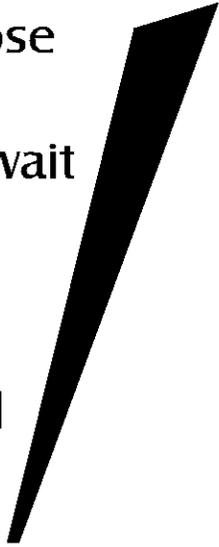
Before this session, photocopy the Rapture Promise Cards (master provided). Distribute the cards to the kids as they leave as a reminder of the promise Jesus made them to rescue them from sin for eternity.

Ready For Jesus

A SKIT FOR THREE PEOPLE ABOUT THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

- 1: *Isn't it cool about Jesus coming back?*
- 2: *Yeah I guess. I just hope He doesn't come back before I get old enough for that car my dad promised me. That would be really cool. And if Jesus comes back before I get my license, I'll never have a chance to drive.*
- 1: *I never thought about it like that.*
- 2: *I have. I want to have some fun with my life before I go to heaven.*
- 1: *What if Jesus comes back before I turn eighteen and get to move into my own place? My older sister got to do that when she went to college. I really want to move out on my own!*
- 2: *See -- if Jesus comes right now, it will spoil everything. We won't be able to have any fun. I think we ought to just pray that Jesus holds off a while, like until we are maybe 60 or 70 years old!*
- 3: *Hey guys, what's up?*
- 2: *Oh, we were just hoping that Jesus waits to return for a couple of years. We kind of want to have some fun before we go to heaven for ever and for ever and for ever! That's a long time.*
- 3: *Actually, I'm kind of excited about Jesus coming back. I've been thinking a lot about being with Jesus since my grandpa died last year. I've been looking forward to seeing him real soon in Heaven.*
- 1: *Are you sure he will be in heaven?*
- 3: *Oh yeah! Grandpa knew Jesus as his Savior when he died. So, I know I'll see him there. That's why I'm kind of anxious for Jesus to return.*
- 2: *But what about all the great things you want to do in life? Don't you like that cute guy/ girl at school?* (shy, bashful response from #3) *See, if Jesus comes now, you might never get to meet him/ her.*
- 3: *Maybe you're right. I sure would like to meet him/ her. That would really be great! (after thinking for a minute, takes a stand) But I don't think it would be as good as being with Jesus in Heaven. And I really want to see grandpa again.*
- 2: *Hey, you can see your grandpa again. Don't get so upset! Let's just put it off a little while so the rest of us can have some fun.*
- 1: *Don't you think we're missing something here? Being with Jesus forever is supposed to be fun, too, isn't it?* (the others nod in agreement) *Well, maybe heaven is going to be more fun than the stuff we're waiting for here on earth.*
- 2: *I don't think so!*
- 3: *I do. I have all these plans for when Jesus returns for me.*
- 2: *Like what?*
- 3: *Well, for starters, I've got a bunch of questions about God and the Bible. I don't remember all of them but I know when I get there, my mind will remember all of the important ones and I'm going to ask God every single one.*
- 1: (Staring at his feet thoughtfully) *I'd kind of like to know what that perfect body is going to be like. You know the one like Jesus had when He rose from the dead? I wonder if it is kind of like ____? (name a famous "perfect" person)*
- 3: *I don't think it is that kind of "perfect."*
- 1: *Well, at least once I get to heaven I don't think I'll have to live with my dumb old feet with six toes on each one. That's worth looking forward to.*
- 2: (Playfully stepping on #1's toes) *You have six toes on both of your feet? I never knew that! How weird.*
- 1: *See what I mean. I bet I won't have to hear comments like that in heaven either.*
- 3: *When we get to heaven you will have perfect feet. And hands. And ears. And eyes. And everything else. See, being with Jesus is something to look forward to.*
- 2: (still not convinced) *But what about the great stuff we want to do? There won't be any cars in heaven. Won't I be disappointed to get to heaven and never get to drive a car?*
- 3: *Probably not. Jesus never disappointed anyone when He lived on earth. He doesn't disappoint people now and I don't think anyone who goes to heaven will be disappointed then either.*
- 2: *Well, I'll have to think about that. I'm still not so sure I want Jesus to come back before I get my license.*
- 1: *I think I've made a choice. I'm going to look forward to Jesus coming back. If I miss out on some stuff on earth it must be because the stuff Jesus has planned in heaven is going to be even better. (glances at his watch) I gotta get going. I'll see you guys tomorrow!*
- All: (They shrug) *See ya! (exit.)*

"...To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from



sin, for salvation."

HEBREWS

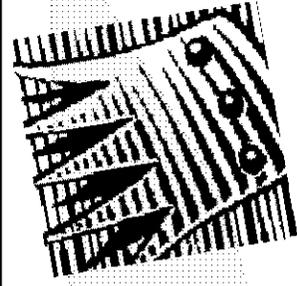
"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven,

but My Father only."

Mat + new

24:36

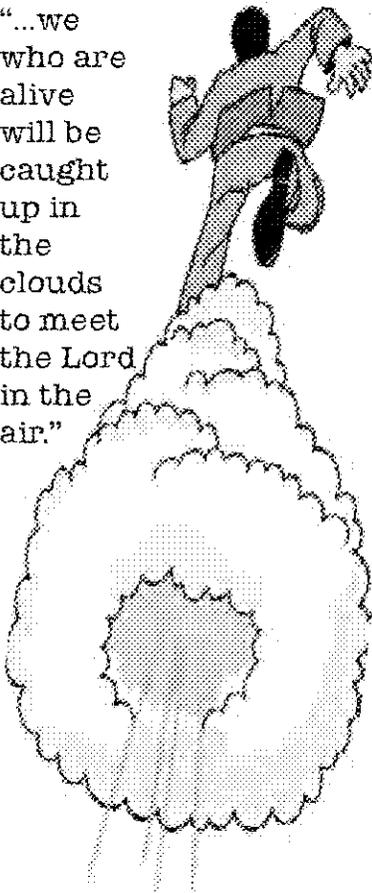
Acts 1:11



Jesus

Will come again

"...we who are alive will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air."



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Revelation 22:20

"I am coming with a reward for you"

Revelation 22:12

WHICH CROWN WOULD YOU CHOOSE?



Look up the following verses which speak of the believers' crowns. Choose the crown that you would most like to receive from Jesus. Then, talk with the people in your group about why you would like to receive this crown.

✦ CROWN OF REJOICING

1 Thessalonians 2:13,19,20

Paul expected to receive his crown at the Coming of Jesus. This is the soul winner's crown.

✦ CROWN OF LIFE

James 1:12

This is the martyr's crown promised to those who are faithful unto death; but those who live prepared to die for their witness receive it also.

✦ CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

2 Timothy 4:7,8

Paul expected to receive this crown as a reward for his "good fight," his "faith kept" and "course finished."

✦ CROWN OF GLORY

1 Peter 5:4

The Greek word for crown is stephanos, which is the crown awarded to the winner of athletic competition; it was made of olive or laurel leaves and withered. The crown of glory is for pastors and elders who never give up in their service to God. This crown will never fade away.

Ecclesiastes 12:14

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LESSON AIM

To realize that after death, people will face God the righteous judge.
To distinguish between two types of final judgement:

1. reward for the believer
2. punishment for the unbeliever

KEY VERSE

"For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil."
Ecclesiastes 12:14

ITEMS NEEDED

Bibles / pencils / paper / photocopies of "Which Crown Would You Choose"

DECLARATION OF FAITH

We believe that the dead both small and great shall be raised up and stand with the living before the judgment seat of God; and that then a solemn separation shall take place wherein the wicked shall be judged to everlasting punishment and the righteous to life eternal; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of man in Heaven or in hell on principles of righteousness as set forth in His Holy **Word.**



GROUP INTERACTION

MOCK TRIAL



Create a courtroom complete with Judge's bench and witness stand. Assign the roles of judge, defense attorney, prosecutor and defendant to people from your group.

The defendant is accused of deserting a loved one. For example, a father who has left his children and their mother. You can create the scenerio and allow the kids to adlib the arguments for and against the defendant. Spend about 15 minutes presenting the case against the defendant and allowing him/her to argue for their innocence. In the end, allow the judge to rule innocent or guilty. Follow the activity with a brief time of discussion focusing on these questions:

1. Is the Judge's decision final?
2. Can the defendant appeal a verdict of guilt?
3. What should the punishment be for someone who deserts a loved one?
4. Did the judge make a mistake in his decision?
5. Are there similarities and differences between our mock court and God's courtroom?
6. Will a person be able to appeal God's final judgement?

INSTRUCTION

Judgement Means Reward and Punishment Ecclesiastes 12:14

The Bible says that every person who has ever lived will be judged by God. The judgement will be based on God's righteous standard and what the people have done in their lives. People can choose to live the Christian life or to live our lives in our own way. Our rewards or punishment will result from our choice.

You may be surprised to learn that God cannot make a person choose His way of living. Every individual must make their own choice. Each person can choose to go the devil's way or God's way. If a person chooses to live for themselves, the judgement will be called The White Throne Judgement. This judgement will determine the punishment of the unbeliever's sin.

On the other hand, people who know Jesus as Savior and live their lives for Him, will receive a reward for doing what He said. Before we discuss the judgment of unbelievers let's look at the what happens to believers during their time of judgment.

Rewards for the Christian 2 Corinthians 5:9,10

The Christian's judgment is sometimes called the believer's judgment. This time is referred to as a judgment because we will stand before Jesus at the Bema Seat of Christ. Bema is a word which describes a judge's bench or raised platform where the judge would sit as he/she judges a case. Instead of punishment, the result will be a reward. The word "evaluation" might be an easier word for us to understand because God will evaluate how we spent our life in service to Him.

Every Christian will stand before the Bema Seat of Christ. People who know Jesus as Lord will not be judged for their sin, because by accepting Jesus, their sin is forgiven and forgotten. The Christians' sin was judged on the cross when Jesus took their sin upon Himself and died for them.

The Christian will be rewarded for the work he or she has done while living on earth. Everything we have done for the Lord will pass before Him for inspection. If our motives have been wrong, or if we have served selfishly to bring attention to ourselves instead of Jesus, we will not be rewarded. If our service, deeds, works and actions have been done because of our love for Jesus, we will pass the inspection and we will receive rewards for what we have done. The ultimate reward, of course, will be spending eternity with Jesus. The other rewards will just make eternity with Him better.

Tip:

There is an erroneous idea held by some that there will be one general day of reckoning on which all beings just or unjust will be judged. The Bible speaks of a number of judgments. This lesson defines two phases of final judgement recorded in the Bible.

Tip:

It is important to know Jesus now. Every person can escape hell and the judgement of our own rebellion by making Jesus Lord of our life. Encourage the kids in your group to make this decision before they leave this meeting.

Punishment for the Unbeliever *Revelation 20:12,13,15*

The White Throne Judgement is the judgement of the person who did not live for Jesus on earth. A throne is a symbol of kingship. Throughout the Bible we read about kings who sat on their throne and ruled people, judged people and sometimes condemned people. God is more fair, righteous and loving than any earthly king could ever be. Just as people today are judged or brought to court for trial, so the sinners will be judged by God at the White Throne Judgement. Revelation chapter 20 tells us that those whose names are not written in the Book of Life will be sent to hell as punishment for their rejection of Jesus.

God will be the judge at The White Throne Judgement, which will take place after Jesus has reigned on earth for 1,000 years. God will judge rightly. He will make no mistakes. As people stand before Him, they will be asked what they heard and were told by Christian friends, relatives or even a minister. Those who have turned their back on Jesus and have rejected or ignored Him, will spend eternity with the devil.

INVESTIGATION

Photocopy the "Which Crown Would You Choose" handout and distribute one to each of the kids. Tell them to use their Bibles to discover what rewards God will give to people who love Him and serve Him. After allowing a few minutes for the kids to complete this investigation, continue with the Instruction Time.

TAKING HOME THE TRUTH

"...Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord" (Matthew 25:21). Jesus made this statement as He was teaching one of His many parables about the kingdom of Heaven. This statement is very important for believers. This is what we will hear from Jesus Himself as He looks at our life of service. He will welcome His followers into Heaven with joy and love. It will be an enjoyable time when we receive His reward and begin to spend eternity with Him.

As you conclude this session, spend a few minutes sharing and praying together about how to live more effectively for Jesus while on earth. Focus on the anticipation of God's reward for living a life the way Jesus said we should. Include in your prayer the statement from Matthew 25:21 (above) and encourage the kids to memorize this verse and to make it a personal goal to hear these words from Jesus in eternity.

Romans 5:1, 2

Just as if
I'd never
sinned



LESSON AIM

To discover the scriptural meaning of justification.
To begin to live in the benefits of justification.

KEY VERSE

"Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1,2

ITEMS NEEDED

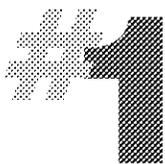
Bibles
Pencils/ Paper
3" x 5" index cards (see Group Activity)
Photocopies of "Justified Living" (master provided)

DECLARATION OF FAITH

Justification by faith is the foundation truth of God's provision of salvation for guilty and lost sinners. It is frequently referred to in the Scriptures, yet it is one of the most neglected and misunderstood doctrines in all evangelical theology. It is of such a far-reaching and startling nature that many seem afraid to teach and believe the scriptural declarations concerning it. Yet it must be understood if we are to grasp, and fully understand, the "so great salvation" (Hebrews 2:3) God has graciously and freely **provided.**



GROUP INTERACTION



The goal of this interaction is for the kids to get their hands on the '#1' card. As the kids arrive, give every person a 3x5 card with a number written on it. Use any number on the cards except the number '1.' Don't tell anyone that the number one is missing from the cards until later.

In the end every kid will probably win a prize, so have enough for everyone. Keep the prizes hidden for now except for one. Tell the kids that the winner of this game will receive a prize. Show them the single prize and explain that they are to trade cards with each other trying to get their hands on the number '1.' They are to keep the number on their card to themselves and not let on if they receive the number '1' card. The person with the number '1' is the winner of the prize.



Give them two or three minutes to trade cards with each other, all seeking the illusive number '1.' It won't take them very long to figure out that something is wrong. No one seems to have the number '1.'

After you calm them down and assure them that there will be a winner to this game, show the kids a card with the number '1' written on it. Assure them, again, that this time there will be a winner. Place the number '1' card into a stack of other number cards but don't let the kids see where you put it or what is written on the other cards in the stack. (You know that all the cards in this stack have the number '1' written on them, but they don't know it!)

Rags for Riches

Now, have the kids trade whatever card they have for one of your cards, again not letting on if they receive the number '1' card. Of course, it won't take very long for them to figure out that everyone who trades their worthless card for one of yours becomes a winner.

This activity will take some real poker-face acting on your part. If you do it right, the kids can all be winners and learn a lesson about trading worthless cards for a prize. If one of the kids decides not to trade for one of your cards, that's fine. It will provide you an opportunity to discuss with the kids the reasons why there are people in the world who could receive Jesus but choose to hang on to their empty, miserable, sinful lives instead.

Follow up the activity with a discussion based on these observations:

1. What did it take to win this game?
2. How did it feel when we had the winning card?
3. Was it easy to trade a losing card for the sure thing?
4. How are we like the "losing card"?
5. How is Jesus like the "sure thing."

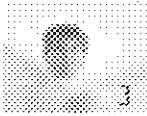
INSTRUCTION TIME

An Uneven Trade 2 Corinthians 5:21

Sometimes we don't have the resources to win, no matter what we do. We need the help of another person. When a person accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior, God trades our dirty, sinful life for something much better - His righteousness. We don't deserve this kind of trade. We have nothing of value to trade. God values us enough to simply trade His righteousness for our sin. He makes us winners. This is called Justification.

God takes away our sin and gives us His righteousness in its place. Just as if we had never sinned. This uneven trade began when God the Father sent His only Son to die on the cross for our sin. Have the kids look up and read 2 Corinthians 5:21.

"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ."



Read the following story
or have one of the good
readers in the group
read it aloud.

Where We Stand With God

Randall picked up his bloodied coat and slowly turned toward the door shocked by what he had just done. He turned off the light in the apartment and locked the door as he calmly closed it behind him. Quickly the panic began to overtake his mind and he raced down the street unsure of where he was going.

The events of the day replayed one by one. . . If only she hadn't made him angry. . . if only he could control his temper. . . why couldn't she just be quiet for once. . . he had no choice but to hit her. Once he began, it was too late. He bent her until she would never be able to yell at him again.

That night waiting anxiously in his apartment, he knew he would be caught. His fingerprints were all over her house, his marks all over her body. He didn't have the will to fight or to run. Finally around 11:00 p.m. the doorbell rang and Randall knew the time had come. Humbly, he allowed the police to take him away. He didn't want to go on anyway.

Nine months later Randall found himself sitting in a courtroom surrounded by those who used to be his friends, his family. He had no idea how he had gotten to this point in his life and dreaded hearing the judge's decision for his future. The bailiff quieted the room as the judge slowly and confidently began to speak. Dreading the worst, Randall couldn't even look toward the surprisingly gentle man who was to determine the rest of his life.

This was it; the verdict was final and nothing could change it. The sentence was DEATH. But what was the judge saying? Randall couldn't believe his ears. Even though the evidence had clearly proven him guilty of murdering his girlfriend, this judge was going to let Randall go free. It wouldn't show on his record and no one could ever accuse him of it again. But someone had to pay the penalty, justice had to be done. Someone would have to die to pay for Randall's crime.

To the surprise of Randall and everyone else in the courtroom, the judge rose to his feet and continued his pronouncement of the sentence: "I will take the consequences for what Randall has done. I will pay his penalty." The courtroom was silent. The onlookers were stunned.

And Randall was set free to begin his life again.

Justification is a legal term which pictures the sinner in God's courtroom to receive condemnation for the sins he has committed. But instead of being condemned, he is judicially pronounced as not guilty, being declared by God to be righteous. Discuss with the kids the similarity of Randall's story and what God has done for us.

INVESTIGATION

Ask the kids to look up 1 Corinthians 6:11 in their Bibles. Have them underline or highlight the following words in their Bibles:

Washed Sanctified Justified Name of the Lord Spirit of our God

Tip:

Sanctification is covered in detail in two lessons in this unit of Baseline. Be careful not to get off on that subject in this discussion.

Help the kids understand the scriptural significance of these words and phrases as they mark them.

When God forgives our sin we are washed clean on the inside.

This inward cleansing by God is called sanctification.

God's announcement that we have been washed is called being justified.

We are justified in the Name of Jesus Christ.

The Spirit of our God (Holy Spirit) does on Christ's behalf.



The Result of Justification *Romans 1:1,2*

Three significant words in Romans 1:1,2 summarize the benefits of being justified. As you discuss the words, have the class repeat the highlighted statement.

I have peace with God just as if I'd never sinned. *God is holy and sinless. He hates sin. We are literally at war with God before we accept Christ. Jesus brings an end to the war when we accept Him as personal Savior. Because we are justified in Jesus, we can now live at peace with God. Peace means to be "united with." When we are justified we are united with Christ. We have peace because we understand who we are in Christ. As our understanding of peace with God increases, our discord with other people will decrease. We can measure how much understanding we have of this peace by our behavior toward people in our family, at church and at school.*

I live in grace just as if I'd never sinned. *Grace is not merely a prayer we say before we eat dinner. Grace is defined as favor, kindness, pleasantness, attractiveness (Strong's #2580); grace means undeserved blessing. When we are accepted by Jesus Christ in justification, we experience the grace of God; the attractiveness of God; the pleasantness of God. We are joyful as a result of God's grace. We are responsible for sharing that joy and pleasantness with others. Remember that grace is not deserved, it is a result of God's justification. So, when you show grace, it will sometimes be to people who really don't deserve it. Ephesians 1:7*

I live in hope just as if I'd never sinned. *Romans 5:2b says, "we rejoice in hope of the glory of God." We have hope because we no longer have to pay the price for our past sin. There is no guilt against us. We have experienced the undeserved gift of His grace. Genuine hope is not wishful thinking, but a firm assurance about things that are seen and unseen and still in the future. Hope distinguishes the believer from the unbeliever, who has no hope. Christian hope comes from God and rests on His promise of Christ's return. The Christian should live with godly confidence for a certain future.*

TAKING HOME THE TRUTH

Hand out copies of "Justified Living" and begin to focus on what it means to live in peace, grace and hope. Help the kids begin to see that the way they think about themselves will affect the way they treat others. People who are justified and made righteous in Jesus should live in peace, grace and hope. Justified Christians should treat others with peace, grace and hope.

Read the instructions aloud as the kids follow along. Challenge the kids to look at their own lives and relationships with other people. Have them think of ways they might bring peace to a situation in their life; show grace to someone who doesn't deserve it; or give hope to a person who feels guilty.

Conclude your group session with prayer, asking God to help each person with the three areas of justified living - peace, grace and hope.

PEACE

GRACE

HOPE

JUSTIFIED

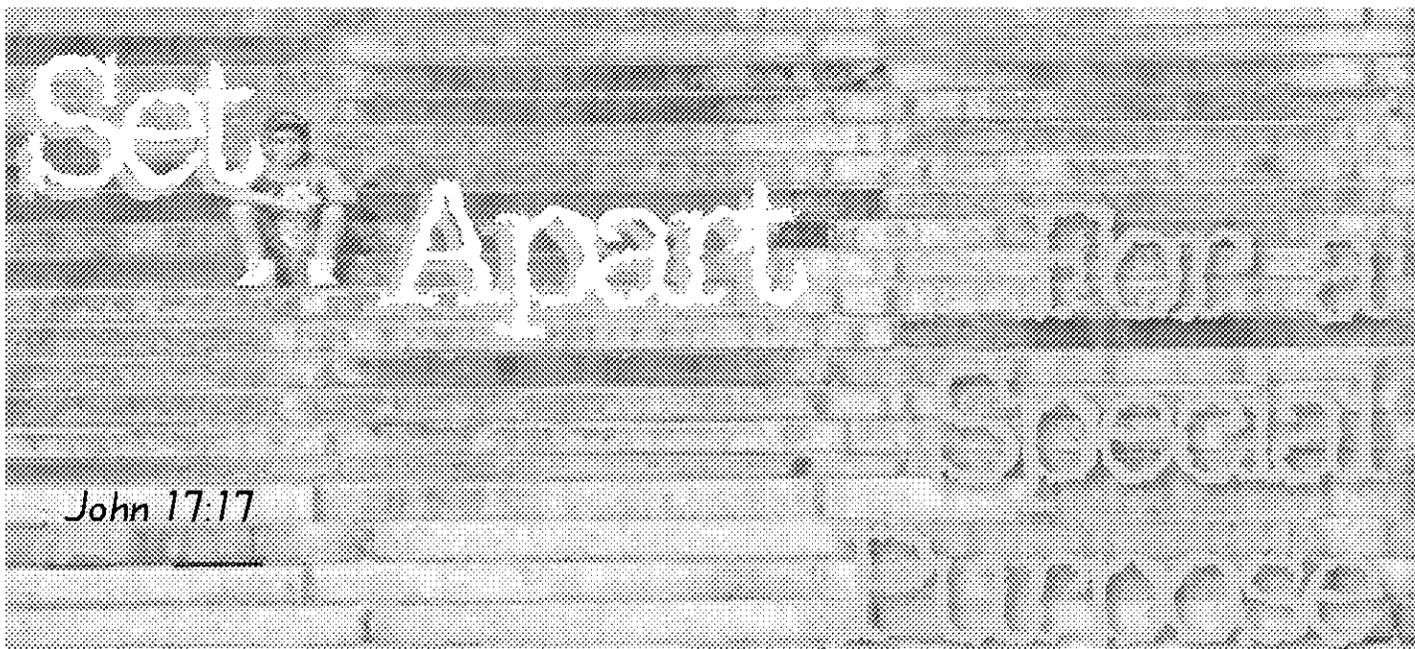
FOR GOD'S GLORY

The Bible tells us that we are justified in Christ. This means that we experience the peace, grace and hope found only in God. Our justification should bring a change in our behavior toward other people. If we enjoy the peace of Christ, we should show the peace of Christ to others. Once we recognize the grace God has given us, we should show that grace to people who deserve something worse. After we have been justified, we will be people of hope. People who don't know Jesus need this kind of hope.

Think about these three important words. Think about what God has done for you. Pray about how you can show others the peace, grace and hope God has brought to your life. Write down what you believe the Lord says to you as you think and pray about **"Justified Living."**

Hold this paper in front of a mirror to read what God says about Justified Living.

Romans 2:13
 "Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."



LESSON AIM

To recognize that to be sanctified means we are set apart for a holy life.

KEY VERSE

"...Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth." John 17:17

ITEMS NEEDED

Bibles / pencils / paper / photocopies of "Set Apart Stories"

DECLARATION OF FAITH



The primary meaning of sanctification in the Bible is a dedication, consecration or setting apart for some specific and holy use. In the Old Testament many inanimate things (the implements of temple worship) were said to be sanctified. This simply means they were separated for the service of the Lord. It is important for every Christian to realize that he/she is a chosen vessel set apart for a very special purpose for the glory of God. In this sense he is already **sanctified.**

GROUP INTERACTION

Purchase a single food item which would appeal to most of the kids in your group. This might be a giant chocolate bar or a two-liter bottle of soda or a McDonalds burger, fries and drink.

"What wouldcha do for a ...?"

Ask the kids this question: "What would you do for this item?" Have the kids bid on this food item. They cannot bid with money or material things. They must bid something which costs them time or energy or a risk of personal embarrassment. Here are a few examples...

... jump up and down and cluck like a chicken for three minutes.

... run in circles ten times singing "Jesus Loves Me."

Or... choose ideas of your own to suggest that they bid for the food item.

INSTRUCTION TIME

Prepare the kids for this lesson on sanctification with this transition: *When we value something, we are usually willing to sacrifice part of ourselves for it. The person who won the bid for the food item had to set himself or herself apart for that purpose. Even if it meant being embarrassed.*

Being set apart to an important purpose requires personal sacrifice. We can see examples of this type of dedication in the field of athletics, the arts, science, medicine and a variety of other fields. With this lesson we have included a page of short stories which illustrate a set apart lifestyle. You might choose to assign the stories to several kids to read aloud for the group. It would also be effective to have the kids pair up giving each pair one story to read together.

However you choose to assign the stories, encourage the kids to discuss the following questions:

- * What was the specific purpose for which the person prepared?*
- * How did they set themselves apart for that purpose?*
- * Did they need to give up certain things for that purpose?*
- * What were the benefits of setting themselves apart?*

What is Sanctification? 2 Chronicles 29:19

Read 2 Chronicles 29:19 aloud with the kids. Explain that God told the Old Testament priests to sanctify the tools which were used in their worship. These tools probably included candle holders, tables, bowls, cups and a variety of other implements used in the temple. King Ahaz deliberately disobeyed and used the sanctified utensils for his palace dinners. Of course, this displeased God because He had clearly said that these tools were to be used solely in worship to Him.

God is always very specific when He wants us to obey Him. The king violated God's instruction in a number of ways and destroyed many of the temple implements in the process. When God's faithful servants were able to restore the utensils to the temple again, they cleaned and sterilized them and prepared them again for the one specific purpose God intended from the beginning. The temple utensils were once again sanctified only for the worship of God.

It is not just things which need to be sanctified. God instructed the priests to sanctify themselves, too. 2 Chronicles 29:20-36 records how King Hezekiah led the way for the people to offer the necessary sacrifices and offerings so God knew they were serious about changing their ways. The outcome was that God received the offering of the people and was pleased with the attitude of worship they had in their hearts.

Tip:

This lesson describes the fact of our initial sanctification. Be careful that the kids realize there is another, equally important, meaning which involves our daily decisions and devotion to Christ. The secondary use of the word in the Bible involves the process of sanctification. This process is explained in the lesson called "Cleaning Up Our Act."



Write the following verse on a chalkboard or overhead transparency:

"Hezekiah and all the people of Judah celebrated, because God had helped them make this happen so quickly." (2 Chronicles 29:36 from the Promise)

Ask the kids to read this verse aloud with you. Explain that the people of Judah showed what it means to be sanctified when they began paying attention to what was important to God. When God saw they had a change of heart and wanted to be close to Him again, He sanctified them.

Ask the kids to answer these questions about verse 36:

- 1. Why did the people of Judah celebrate?
(Because they were set apart for God's worship again.)*
- 2. How long does it take to be sanctified?
(This verse says that being sanctified can happen very quickly.)*

Who Needs to Be Sanctified? John 17:16-19

Jesus needed to be sanctified.

In the New Testament Jesus prayed to His heavenly Father to be sanctified. Ask the kids to turn to John 17:19. Read this verse together. Jesus prayed that it is for our sake that He is sanctified for God's specific purpose. He set Himself apart from this world and the pleasure of life so that He could bring salvation into our lives.

We need to be sanctified.

The way Jesus explained it, we can only be sanctified through Him. He sets us apart for His specific purpose. Now take a look at verses 16-18 and notice these key thoughts:

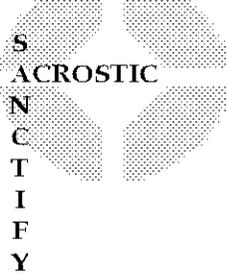
- 1. We do not belong to the world. We belong to God.*
- 2. We are sanctified by living according to God's Word, the Bible.*
- 3. The Bible is Truth.*
- 4. Jesus is our example of how to live in sanctification.*
- 5. He wants us to live sanctified lives so others can find Him.*

How We Are Sanctified John 17:17

*Jesus cleans us up on the inside by forgiving us of our sin. This is called being sanctified. It happens quickly -- immediately, when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. It is a **fact** that we are sanctified. There is a **process** of holy living which is also called sanctification. Don't get confused, the process of sanctification will be covered in another lesson called "Cleaning Up Our Act." We call the fact of our sanctification **imputed** (to credit or attribute) **sanctification** because it is something that is done for us by Jesus.*



TAKING HOME THE TRUTH



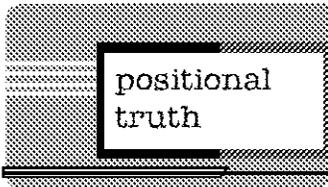
Give the kids a sheet of paper and have them write the word SANCTIFY down the left side. Look up the verses below and read them together. Then, ask the kids to write beside each letter a word which describes the meaning of the word SANCTIFY. You may want to give them a time limit and award the person with the most correct answers.

1 Thessalonians 5:23
Hebrews 2:10,11

Jeremiah 1:5
Hebrews 13:12

ALTERNATE ACTIVITY

Emphasize with the kids the importance of knowing that in Christ they have been set apart for a holy life. This is positional truth which means that knowing this truth may not make them feel much different. The fact remains that if a person receives Jesus as Lord and Savior, they have been sanctified. Knowing this truth is extremely important.



Give the kids a sheet of paper and pencils or pens. You may want them to work in pairs for this activity. Ask them to write a paragraph, a short story or a poem explaining in a creative way what it means to be sanctified. Direct them to the aim of this lesson and some of the facts which have been discussed during the lesson. Remember that we are set apart to God for a holy life.

Conclude this lesson with a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the fact of quick imputed sanctification which helps us live a holy life.

Set Apart To Run

No one thought this young boy from Africa would grow up to be an Olympic gold medal winner. He learned to run while working for his uncle herding goats on the steep hill country called Kalenjin in western Kenya. One of the goats had been killed by a wild leopard and the young boy stumbled upon the scene. Needless to say, he learned very fast how to run!

His name is Kip Keino and he was encouraged to run by his father who was also an award winning runner. Kip first trained on the rough and rugged dirt paths of the mountain country. When he joined the Kenya police force, Kip was able to use athletic facilities provided by the force.

Early in his running career, Kip married the daughter of a Kalenjin tribesman who served Jesus with his whole heart. The young couple was greatly influenced by the truth of the Bible and salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.

This young police inspector from Kenya would rise to fame in worldwide competition and earn a place in running history. He set records and defeated such great athletes as Michel Jazy of France, Ron Clarke of Australia, and American record holder Jim Ryan.

Kip Keino was a dedicated young man. He was a gold medalist. His life was not always easy. He experienced defeat. Kip Keino was a man set apart first to God for a holy life and he was a man who set himself apart to be an award winning runner.

God's Dreams Live

Some people have seen her bad side. They realize that Ann Kiemel can be depressed, confused and lonely. Most people never see that side. They only see the dynamic speaker who motivates adults and kids to live their lives for Jesus. She is an accomplished author who balances a busy schedule with family responsibilities.

Ann writes: "People think I have everything. They look at me and do not see any major catastrophes. They don't know I struggle with ordinary human problems ... ego ... insecurity ... day in, day out frustrations..."

Ann Kiemel is an accomplished marathon runner. She runs to win but seldom if ever has actually won a marathon. In her words, "Winning is being faithful and faithfulness is getting out and doing it. Simply doing it." She continues, "Everyone should feel the stretch. The pull of doing what is tough. What is not easy ... but will refine and enhance life."

Not only is Ann Kiemel set apart to success in life. She is set apart first to Jesus Christ. "I follow Jesus," she says, "He plants dreams in my heart. I do it to prove that God is great, and any dream He gives can live."

\$30 Million For Walking on His Hands

Bob Wieland was a young athlete who loved baseball and weightlifting. He was offered a contract to play with the Philadelphia Phillies but a war changed the direction of his life. Bob was drafted into military service and saw another side to life than he had ever known before.

Bob saw young mothers with babies who were dying with disease. These women would ask American soldiers for help often bringing the babies right to the young men and cry for help. He knew these children would die either from the disease or from malnutrition. His compassion for the hungry and needy children of the world began to grow.

His life was to change even more. Bob was assigned to a military mission which took him into the jungles north of Saigon. Bob stepped on a hidden 82 mm mortar round (an explosive designed to blow up a tank) and his legs were blown off his body. He remembers that God began a series of miracles in his life, beginning with a chopper pilot who deviated from his scheduled course to find Bob in the jungle, bleeding and near death. The doctors would later say that 15 more seconds in the jungle and Bob would have been dead. He credits God with saving his life and helping him find new purpose for the future.

After a period of recuperation, Bob returned home and after four years of disappointing attempts at athletic competition, Bob set himself apart to take an unheard of step. He became the first double amputee to walk 3,000 miles on his hands from Knott's Berry Farm in California to Washington, D.C. to raise \$30 million for relief of world hunger.

Set Apart Stories

the Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-4

This holiday lesson has a different format which combines an informal teaching time with interaction integrated at each teaching point. Have fun with this lesson.

KEY VERSE

When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they (about 120 disciples) were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance
(Acts 2:1-4)

ITEMS NEEDED

Bibles/ pencils/ posterboard or chalkboard/ video camera/ video tape

Pentecost: An Ancient Holiday

Write this phrase on a posterboard or on a chalkboard:

WHAT IS IT?

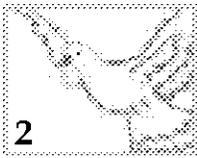
The Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost, took its name from the fact that it occurred seven weeks, or fifty days, after Passover.

Pentecost is from the Greek word for an old holiday celebrated by the Hebrew people of the Old Testament. It was a harvest festival similar to our holiday called Thanksgiving. Pentecost took its name from the fact that it occurred seven weeks, or fifty days, after Passover. Each family offered thanks to God for a successful grain harvest by giving the first portion of the harvest to the temple priests. Pentecost is also known by these names:

The Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22)

The Feast of Harvest (Exodus 23:16)

The Feast of First Fruits (Numbers 28:26)



WHAT IT BECAME

Every family has traditions, feasts, and holidays they enjoy. Have the kids think of one such celebration that was always kind of the same until one day or one year when something very unusual happened. Maybe they had an unexpected guest show up for dinner. Or perhaps something happened which made them appreciate their time together. Give the kids a few minutes to think and then have them share their experiences with the group. Realize that not everyone will have a story to share. Be prepared with an experience of your own to share, if necessary, to get things started.

The Promise of a New Celebration

Write this promise of Pentecost on posterboard or a chalkboard:

"You shall receive the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

After His resurrection, Jesus told His disciples to return to Jerusalem and remain there until they were "filled with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). He told them, "You shall receive the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:5) Jesus was right. Those who obeyed His words were filled with power from heaven.

God's people celebrated The Feast of Weeks for hundreds of years. Thousands of people still gathered each year in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. This year, however, something would happen to change the meaning and celebration of this feast forever!

Have the kids read Acts 2:3,4 and make a list on the posterboard/ (the one with the definition of Pentecost) of the events that happened on this new Day of Pentecost. Here are some possible responses:

They heard the sound of a rushing mighty wind.

God's Spirit filled the entire room where they were.

They were filled with the power of God's Holy Spirit.

They all began to speak with an unlearned language as God gave them the ability and the words.

Now pass out copies of the activity page, **Day of Pentecost**. Assign each verse on the activity sheet to a different person or group of people. Ask them to write down the personal characteristics before and after the Day of Pentecost. The characteristics before Pentecost might include stubborn, self-centered, selfish and unfaithful. Personal characteristics of the same people after Pentecost might include loyal, faithful, bold, and dependable. As a group share these observations and why the fulness of the Holy Spirit made the difference.



PENTECOST TODAY

The Holy Spirit Helps People

How appropriate that God should choose this day on which to give His Spirit to His church. Before this day is over, 3000 people would give their hearts to Jesus as Lord and Savior because of what they saw. This ancient holiday celebrating harvest brought in a new kind of Harvest: thousands of people living for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Create a video news magazine featuring kids from your group on the Day of Pentecost. Call it something wild and creative. Let the kids help in all phases of production. For those who feel intimidated by a video camera, enlist the help of one of the older kids or another young thinking person from your congregation. This can be a project which is thought through, filmed and viewed right in your group session. For a more thorough approach you may choose to use the week prior to this meeting to prepare the video. If you choose this option, enlist the help of some key kids in the group. Have the kids take on various roles of people who might have been in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. Let them be creative with accents and dialects as they tell their stories. Keep everyone focused on these three thoughts...

- 1. This was a genuine experience of the Holy Spirit filling Christians with supernatural ability and power.*
- 2. Christians began to speak in languages and dialects they had never learned which were understood by various travelers in Jerusalem.*
- 3. Skeptics were converted to believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior because of what happened in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost.*

Tip:

Don't be concerned that this lesson ends without a spiritual response from the kids. A companion lesson in this unit of Baseline is about the Baptism With the Holy Spirit. This lesson will give you the opportunity to really bring Home the Truth with the kids!

End this session with big bowls of popcorn, sodas and if possible, a giant screen TV or video projector to play your home-grown video on.

The Day of Pentecost

Each verse below describes a distinct personal characteristic of people before and after the Holy Spirit filled them on the Day of Pentecost. Read each Scripture. Write the characteristic under the verse. Here's a hint: the characteristics before the Day of Pentecost show personal weakness and the characteristics after the Day of Pentecost show personal strength.

Before

Matthew 20:20-24

Matthew 26:69-75

Luke 8:24-25

Mark 6:34-37

After

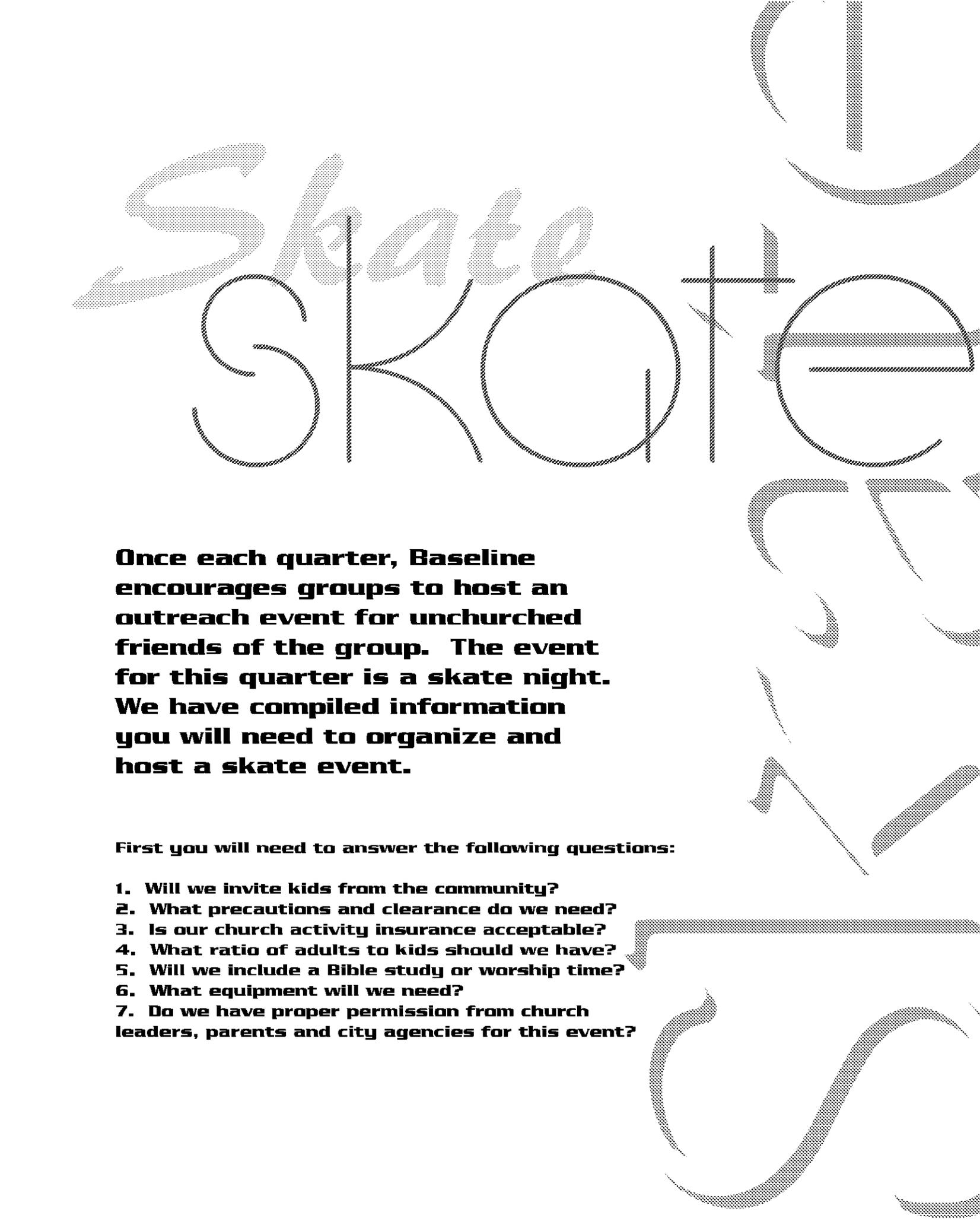
Acts 5:12

Acts 9:31

Acts 11:27-29

Acts 19:1-6

Why do you think being filled with the Holy Spirit made these people more effective for the Lord?



Skate

SKATE

Once each quarter, Baseline encourages groups to host an outreach event for unchurched friends of the group. The event for this quarter is a skate night. We have compiled information you will need to organize and host a skate event.

First you will need to answer the following questions:

- 1. Will we invite kids from the community?**
- 2. What precautions and clearance do we need?**
- 3. Is our church activity insurance acceptable?**
- 4. What ratio of adults to kids should we have?**
- 5. Will we include a Bible study or worship time?**
- 6. What equipment will we need?**
- 7. Do we have proper permission from church leaders, parents and city agencies for this event?**

Precautions and Guidelines

International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (ICFG) Insurance Department

Skateboarding is considered a high risk activity by the ICFG Insurance Department, the Insurance Carrier and many cities across the country. In fact, many communities have banned skateboarding of any kind in their city limits.

Due to the high risk of physical injury, severe and / or permanent disfigurement, disability or death, the ICFG Insurance Department would prefer that your church not sponsor a Skateboard Activity. However, we know that this activity is common among our youth and so we will ask that you follow the guidelines below:

Church sponsored activities, both on and off church property, must be reviewed and approved by the senior pastor, or a designated staff member, as to the potential for injury to the participant.

In reviewing an activity, the pastor or a designated staff member should:

- a. Examine all of the details of the planned event, including transportation;*
- b. Determine the minimum age, experience and training required for injury-free participation; determine what safety gear will be required.*
- c. Determine the experience, training and maturity of appropriate supervision of the activity.*

Factors that should be considered are:

- a. Previous experience of the Church with similar activities. (If you have not done this before, call a church who has and has been successful with the event, and get their insight into the safety measures they have taken.)*
- b. Do you have a plan in affect if someone is injured? If not, design one that can be reviewed and approved of by the pastor and/or designated staff member.*
- c. Set up written guidelines that can be presented to the participants and their parent/ guardians prior to the event. Be specific and follow through with appropriate discipline if the guidelines are violated.*
- d. Have the parents/ guardians sign a release form in order for the child to participate. Please include terminology that addresses the issue of medical care in case of an emergency.*

Our insurance policies do not exclude any specific activities, however, we are held liable if we knowingly allow people to participate in an event that has known risk, if we have not done everything in our power to eliminate known risk and not properly supervised the event.

We surveyed church groups which have conducted successful skate events. Skate night events have been well received and usually result in kids and/or parents receiving Jesus. Here are some of the pertinent facts you should think about. After reviewing this information, and consulting with your pastoral leadership, decide if your group wants to put in the work to make a skate event happen.

Coordinator: One church uses a Bible college student who is also a skater to coordinate their skate event. Another church has a junior high pastor who is a skater. Each church we surveyed for this information seeks the help of a skater to coordinate this event.

Permission: It is vital to have full permission from your church leadership before considering a skate event. Many liability issues need to be addressed and satisfied before permission should be granted. (For more on activity insurance, please see the information from the ICFG Insurance Group on page three.) Parent permission/medical release forms should be signed for every participant in your skate night. Finally, if your event will be held on property not owned by the church, you will need permission from the owner/landlord or if on public property, from city or county officials giving their permission to host an event on public property.

Equipment: Decide if your ramps will be permanently installed or portable. Research skating magazines and the Internet for ideas on building your ramps. Start with the basics and if your event grows, build more ramps. Each skater should bring their own personal equipment and we recommend every skater wear a helmet.

Supervision: The common ratio we discovered seems to be 1 adult for every 20 kids. Depending on your area and the kids involved, you will need to think about volunteer or professional security. One group with an average attendance of 5-10 kids saw 100 kids show up for a skate night with no advertising. Another church averages several thousand at a regular skating event. 80% of the kids seem to be willing to participate in the voluntary Bible study.

Schedule: Some groups have live Christian music as a witness to unsaved kids while everyone skates. Others choose to skate for a while and stop for a short, voluntary Bible study and/or time of music and worship before returning to skating. Leaders from both approaches have reported kids finding Jesus as Savior and in some cases, parents becoming Christians because of these events. Some groups host a skating event each week. Others have an event once a month or once a quarter.

Discipline: Be prepared for the possibility of dealing with issues of misconduct, fights, or drugs. We suggest having firm policy of parental contact in the event of minor misconduct, and if necessary, contacting law enforcement in the event of drugs or weapons of any kind.