

brite*

Volunteers

AUGUST

This month's
BIBLICAL Theme

God is the Creator

The catechism asks: "What is God?" The answer is: "The creator of everyone and everything." I remember building sandcastles on the beaches as a child. I was very protective and would do everything I could to keep them from being destroyed by other kids or even by the waves. Because the sandcastles were made by me, they belonged to me in a special way.

Because God created everything, it all belongs to Him. He provides and protects because it's all His. Someone once said, "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, 'Mine!'" Because that is true, we can trust Him in everything. In Psalm 24:1, David recognized this: well and said this in Psalms 24:1: *The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.*

-Sam Luce childdiscipleship.com

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH WE WILL BE LEARNING...



Creation

(Genesis 1)

Brite Idea: God is the Creator of everything.



The Fall

(Genesis 3)

Brite Idea: God is holy, but people sin.



Wonderfully Made

(Genesis 1:26-31; 2:4-25)

Brite Idea: God created people in His image.



Tower of Babel

(Genesis 11:1-9)

Brite Idea: No one is greater than God.



Abram and Lot

(Genesis 12-15)

Brite Idea: God is in control.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

*By Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth...
all things were created through Him and for Him.*

(COLOSSIANS 1:16)





Sharing the Gospel

TEACHING KIDS ABOUT THE GOSPEL

The Gospel is the good news. God wants everyone to know this good news and not miss out on this invitation! Here's the Gospel in five main words: God, Us, Jesus, Trust, Share.

LET'S DRAW IT!

Use this simple illustration as you explain the Gospel and teach kids to draw it too!

GOD



God is a loving God who is all-powerful and holy. He knows and sees everything, and rules over everything. God created all people in His image, and we are valuable to Him. (*Psalm 103:19, Genesis 1:27*)

US



But we have sinned, and our sin separates us from God. What is sin? Sin is anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God. The penalty for sin is death and separation from God forever. (*Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23*)

JESUS



But because God loves us so much, He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus died in our place. But He did not stay dead—He rose again three days later. Because of Jesus, we no longer have to be separated from God and we are offered the free gift of eternal life! (*John 3:16, Romans 5:8*)

TRUST



God gives salvation, rescuing us from our sin, to everyone who places their trust in Jesus as their Savior. What is trust? It means that we rely on what Jesus did. You cannot be saved from sin by doing good things, but only through what Jesus did for you. (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)

SHARE



We can choose to follow Him and share His love with others! The Holy Spirit helps us grow to be more like Jesus. He gives us the power and boldness to share God's good news with the world. (*Galatians 5:22-23, Acts 1:8*)



Time Management

Why do you show up to serve kids? You show up because investing in this generation matters. You know that what matters most is not just that kids have fun or know some Biblical trivia. What matters is that they develop a lasting faith in Jesus Christ.

RESILIENT CHILD DISCIPLESHIP:

[Lifeway Research](#) reports that 66 percent of teenagers leave the church as an adult for at least a year. Of those, less than one-third come back. We know we have a problem.

1. **The world is different.** The dominant culture our kids are growing up in is no longer what we may remember as being a Christian culture. Secularism is now the dominant culture that is forming and shaping our kids.
2. **Kids need a faith in Jesus that lasts.** We must shift from kids' ministry focused on just fun, gimmicks and events and focus on discipling kids. Resilient child discipleship is designed to form lasting faith by helping kids belong to God and His kingdom, believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and become like Jesus and walk in His ways through the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. **What can you do?** Be all in. Understand that this generation needs you. Your role is vital, and what you do matters. Show up prepared, invested and committed to child discipleship, understanding that God is using you in the lives of kids today and to shape the church of the future.

LOVING, CARING ADULTS:

YOU are the secret sauce to child discipleship. If you ever question if your role matters, DON'T! One loving, caring adult can make all the difference in the discipleship journey of a kid.

1. **Your presence matters.** The first step to being a loving, caring adult in the life of kids is just showing up. By being consistently present, you communicate to kids that you care.
2. **Your attention matters.** When you are present with kids, be all in. Put the phone away. Save conversations with other adults for later. Come in prepared for the day so that distractions are minimized. Give the kids in your care your undivided attention for the short time you are with them.
3. **Your prayers matter.** Think of one kid in your group and then consider this question: What if you are the only person who prays for that kid this week? God has put you in a role to love and support kids who may not have that spiritual support elsewhere. Pray for every kid like you are the only one praying.



Time Management

HELPING KIDS BELONG:

Child disciplinarians create environments where every kid feels loved and known and has a sense of belonging.

1. **Kids need to feel safe.** For kids to feel like church is a place where they belong, they must feel physically, emotionally and spiritually safe. Set boundaries for behavior and make your group a friendly, welcoming space for everyone.
2. **Kids need to feel noticed.** You will have kids who come in loud, seeking attention. You will have kids who barely say a word and try to blend in. Every kid needs you to look in their eyes and acknowledge how glad you are they are there. Stand by the door as kids enter and personally welcome each one.
3. **Kids need to feel known.** Use Belong activities to connect with kids and get to know them on a personal level. Ask questions about their families and interests. Remember special interests they name (even if you have to write it down.)

HELPING KIDS BELIEVE:

There are key elements in Brite that help kids grow in understanding the Bible so they can believe in Jesus.

1. **God's Big Story.** Kids need to understand that individual Bible stories are pieces of one bigger story. God's story of creation, the fall, redemption and restoration helps kids develop a worldview that is consistent with reality.
2. **He/We/Me Questions.** These questions help kids discover that every passage can teach us something about who God is and what He wants for His people. Kids can also begin to listen to the Holy Spirit to determine what God is inviting them to do in response to His Word.
3. **Point to Jesus.** Kids need to understand that the whole Bible points to Jesus. Don't miss opportunities each week to remind kids of the gospel and what Jesus has done for them.
4. **Use the Bible.** As you teach, hold a Bible in your hand to reinforce where truth comes from. Include times for kids to physically touch Bibles and practice looking up verses. You'll be surprised how much they love this!

HELPING KIDS BECOME:

Child discipleship involves truly experiential ministry designed to help kids navigate a changing culture, experience God's presence and walk in the ways of Jesus.

1. **Tough Topics.** Kids have the whole broken world informing them about tough topics such as anxiety, war, social media, friends and so much more. It is essential that we help them think through how to live out their faith in a changing world. Use the Discipleship Discussion scripts to address tough topics from a biblical worldview.
2. **Spiritual Habits.** Model prayer, service, worship, gratitude and other spiritual habits for kids. Many Become activities involve these habits, but share with kids experiences from your own life as well.
3. **Fruit of the Spirit.** A believer should be increasingly characterized by a loving spirit, a gentle and kind behavior to the people in his life and a joyful heart. When we see this, we can thank God for the fruit of the Spirit in their life.
4. **Evangelism.** Look for opportunities for kids to pray for the people of the world who don't know Jesus. Practice sharing the gospel and talk often about how we can share Jesus with those right around us.

brite* Ministry LEADERS

AUGUST

THIS MONTH'S ATTRIBUTE OF GOD IS: *God is the Creator*

The catechism asks: "What is God?" The answer is: "The creator of everyone and everything." I remember building sandcastles on the beaches as a child. I was very protective and would do everything I could to keep them from being destroyed by other kids or even by the waves. Because the sandcastles were made by me, they belonged to me in a special way.

Because God created everything, it all belongs to Him. He provides and protects because it's all His. Someone once said, "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, 'Mine!'" Because that is true, we can trust Him in everything. In Psalm 24:1, David recognized this: well and said this in Psalms 24:1: *The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.*

-Sam Luce childdiscipleship.com



THIS MONTH'S UNIT THEME IS: *Big-Innings*

This month, we celebrate the Big Inning, the very beginning of God's story and ours! Just like every baseball game starts with the first pitch, everything in creation begins with God. Through our stories this month, kids discover that God designed the world, made people with purpose and has always had a plan. Every beginning comes from God! Check out our Pinterest page for decorating ideas:

<https://www.pinterest.com/britecurriculum/big-inning/>

BRITE in Action

This month we are learning that God is the Creator! Encourage kids to appreciate the beautiful world that God has made by hosting a church neighborhood or local park cleanup day. Invite families to meet at the church, pass out gloves and garbage bags, and lead them to pick up trash and pray for the neighbors around the church to know God, our Creator.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION:

Thank your team this month for being all-star volunteers! Print the attached printable page and attach a small, fun, baseball-themed gift. Consider choosing simple items like Cracker Jacks®, sunflower seeds, gum or baseball-themed trinkets to keep it easy and affordable. Hand these out before or after service, place them at volunteer check-in or tuck them in rooms.

