

brite*

Volunteers

OCTOBER

This month's
BIBLICAL Theme
God never fails

Whenever I do object lessons or teach kids, I always have a plan A, a plan B, and a plan C because how kids respond is unpredictable. God is so different from you and from me. He doesn't need backup plans because His plan, His love, and His nature never change and never fail. So many kids have felt the sting of disappointment. From the loss of friends and a favorite pet to broken homes and the constant reminder on the news that our world is falling apart in so many ways.

What we need to remind our kids this month is how, in the book of Judges, people failed God and each other, but God never failed them. And Jesus never fails us. Even when things look bleak because of the sinful nature and sinful men, we have a sure and certain hope anchored in an unfailing God. (Hebrews 6:19)

-Sam Luce childdiscipleship.com

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH WE WILL BE LEARNING...

WEEK 1

The Sun Stood Still

(Joshua 10, 13)

Brite Idea: God does what He says.

WEEK 2

Deborah Leads

(Judges 4-5)

Brite Idea: God is victorious.

WEEK 3

Hannah and Samuel

(1 Samuel 1-3)

Brite Idea: God cares about us.

WEEK 4

David and Jonathan

(1 Samuel 20)

Brite Idea: God's plan comes first.

MONTHLY
Memory Verse

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)





Sharing the Gospel

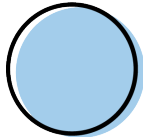
TEACHING KIDS ABOUT THE GOSPEL

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. (*Psalms 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



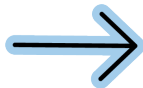
But because God loves us so much, He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus died in our place. But He did not stay dead—He rose again three days later. Because of Jesus, we no longer have to be separated from God and we are offered the free gift of eternal life! (*John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

Responding to Concerning Behaviors

As we work with kids, we will encounter behaviors that are difficult. Rather than make assumptions about the kid, let's get curious while attempting to identify the need. While they may not be using their words, they are communicating with their behavior. Maintain connection with kids when encountering concerning or difficult behavior.

BE PLAYFUL

When a kid does not meet expectations, engaging in play with them is often not our first response. However, when we approach a kid with a warm and playful demeanor, the kid will often begin to calm so we can better identify the need driving the behavior. Need help being more playful? Try these ideas:

1. **Use your "fun" voice.** While it's easy to go straight to our authoritative voice when a kid's behavior is challenging, next time use your "fun" voice when redirecting or correcting. A playful voice signals to the kid that you are on their side and will work with them.
2. **Play.** Relationships are built through shared fun experiences. As you build a relationship with a kid, correction and coaching will be more effective. Sit down on the floor, grab a truck, or join a kid who is coloring.
3. **Start with play.** Telling a kid that our room is a fun space is not enough. We need to show them. Greeting them with a fist bump or high five is a great way to start your interaction with connection and fun. Have toys and craft supplies accessible to kids as soon as they arrive. Offering play immediately upon arrival helps ease the transition from their caregiver.

BIG EMOTIONS AND HELPFUL RESPONSES

While it may appear that a kid is overreacting to a situation, we don't know the whole story. Their reaction may be a response to events that happened before they entered our church. Responding with empathy and understanding will help a kid calm down and feel known.

1. **Believe the kid.** Often if a kid is upset, we attempt to reassure them by saying "you're okay" or "don't cry." Instead of reassuring, this message communicates that their feelings are not valid. When we believe a kid's emotions are real, we will be less likely to dismiss their feelings.
2. **Help kids name their feelings.** Some kids need help identifying what they are feeling. For example, if they're crying say, "It seems like you're sad." Or if they just kicked a chair, "It looks like you're angry because you just kicked a chair." This will help the kid begin to consider the emotion they are feeling.

Responding to Concerning Behaviors

REMEMBER IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU

When a kid responds in a way that does not meet our expectations, it's common to take that behavior personally. This can cause leaders to become frustrated and respond in ways that are not helpful and may even escalate the kid's behavior. Here are some ways to stay calm in the midst of tough situations.

- 1. Check your breathing:** Before responding, take a few deep breaths. This is also a great modeling for the kid who may be having a hard time. As they see us breathing deeply, often they will do the same.
- 2. Pray.** Matthew 19:26 says: *With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.* Need more patience, discernment or calm? Ask God for it.
- 3. Reframe the behavior.** Instead of being offended at the kid's behavior, consider what this behavior may be telling you and how you might help. If we approach the kid as someone needing help, we will tend to approach them in a more compassionate and empathetic way.

OUR WORDS ARE POWERFUL

Our words have the power to build up or tear down. Our words have the power to negatively affect a kid's self-esteem or to encourage them and build up their confidence. Let's be intentional with the words we use, calling out the strengths of each child.

- 1. Praise publicly, correct privately.** Correction is best done in a quiet corner of the room, out of earshot of others. Public correction can cause shame, which can increase undesirable behavior.
- 2. Look for ways to say "yes."** "Yes" is a powerful word. While there are times we must say no, look for opportunities to respond with a yes or use a positive response. For example if a kid wants to get out the toys, instead of saying no, which can result in a power struggle, reframe your response with, "yes, we will play with the toys after large group."
- 3. Call out the good in each kid.** Kids who have difficult behavior often receive negative feedback everywhere they go, which can impact their beliefs about themselves. Be the one to point out the unique gifts that God has given them.

brite* *Ministry* LEADERS

OCTOBER

THIS MONTH'S ATTRIBUTE OF GOD IS: *God never fails*

Whenever I do object lessons or teach kids, I always have a plan A, a plan B, and a plan C because how kids respond is unpredictable. God is so different from you and from me. He doesn't need backup plans because His plan, His love, and His nature never change and never fail. So many kids have felt the sting of disappointment. From the loss of friends and a favorite pet to broken homes and the constant reminder on the news that our world is falling apart in so many ways.

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THIS MONTH'S UNIT THEME IS: *Trailblazers*

This month, we remember that God never fails to guide His people. Throughout the Bible, God guided brave believers through wild paths, and we can follow in their footsteps! When obstacles seemed impossible, God proved faithful, providing direction, strength and victory. Like trailblazers marking the way, these stories show we can trust God to lead us wherever the trail goes. Check out our Pinterest page for decorating ideas: <https://www.pinterest.com/britecurriculum/trailblazers/>

BRITE in Action

This month, help kids share how God never fails by inviting them to record short testimony videos about how God has taken care of their families. Keep videos brief and age appropriate, and gather parent permission before sharing the videos. Share the testimonies during services, before or after programming or digitally with families. As kids boldly share their stories, they become trailblazers by pointing others to a faithful God who leads every step of the way.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION:

Celebrate your volunteers this month for being trailblazers of faith! Use the provided thank-you card and pair it with a small, adventure-themed treat or gift. Easy options like trail mix, flashlight keychains or vinyl nature stickers keep things simple and budget friendly. Little gestures like this may feel small, but they speak loudly. Your volunteers are blazing a trail for kids to belong to God, believe in Jesus as their Savior and become like Him through the power of the Holy Spirit.