

brite*

Volunteers

SEPTEMBER

This month's
BIBLICAL Theme
God Is Unchanging

I really dislike change. But what I love is options. Hebrews 13:8 says: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.* What we will see this month is the unchanging, unflinching nature of God. A God who is consistent in His love and perfect in His justice and reasonable in all of His ways.

We will see how He calls a nation to Himself and, in His love, corrects, restores and rescues her. The confidence we have as

Christians doesn't come from our perfect behavior but rather from the consistent, unchanging love of God for us in Christ.

Because God is consistent in His mercy and judgment, we never have to fear rejection or experience final retribution. His consistency in a world that is so radically inconsistent brings courage to our timid minds and strength to our anxious hearts. What a gift to have a solid rock on which to stand.

-Sam Luce childdiscipleship.com

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH WE WILL BE LEARNING...

WEEK 1

Jacob's Dream

(Genesis 27-28)

Brite Idea: God never changes.

WEEK 2

Joseph and His Brothers

(Genesis 37)

Brite Idea: God can be trusted.

WEEK 3

The Burning Bush

(Exodus 3)

Brite Idea: God will forever be God.

WEEK 4

The Wilderness

(Exodus 13-17:6)

Brite Idea: God provides for us.

MONTHLY
Memory Verse

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(HEBREWS 13:8)





Sharing the Gospel

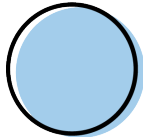
TEACHING KIDS ABOUT THE GOSPEL

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 four main words: God, Us, Jesus, Trust.

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



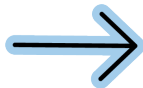
But because God loves us so much, He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus died in our place. But He did not stay dead—He rose again three days later. Because of Jesus, we no longer have to be separated from God and we are offered the free gift of eternal life! (*John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

Keeping Kids Safe at Church

Unfortunately, the church has not historically been as safe for kids as we would hope. Over the past few years, more stories of abuse within the church have come to light. This month, our leader tips will raise awareness for preventing abuse.

RECOGNIZING ABUSE

As a loving, caring adult, you will be in a position to learn a lot about kids' lives. You could be a first line of defense in recognizing when something is not right. A kid may share that they are being hurt, but most often they won't. Here are some signs that a kid may be in danger:

1. **Physical abuse:** unexplained bruises or other injuries, repeated injuries, burn marks, scars from previous injuries.
2. **Sexual abuse:** drawings or play with sexualized tones, talking about sexual topics that are not age-appropriate, excessive touching of self.
3. **Neglect:** consistently poor hygiene, malnutrition, stealing food, seems to lack adult supervision.
4. **General potential signs of abuse or neglect:** sudden unexplained change in behavior, withdrawal, increased aggression with others, increased anxiety or clinginess.

If you have concerns that a kid is experiencing abuse or neglect, report your observations to appropriate local authorities right away and also share with your church leadership. You do not need solid proof to report and you could save a kid's life.

REPORTING ABUSE

If you have concerns about a kid's safety, what do you do? A mandatory reporter is someone who is legally required to report kid welfare concerns. Qualifications for mandatory reporting differ from state to state, so make sure you are aware of your state's laws. Most importantly, commit to doing the right thing to help ensure kids are safe.

1. **Identify abuse:** You do not have to be 100 percent sure that a kid is in danger to get help. It is not your job to conduct an investigation, and doing so can potentially endanger the kid even more.
2. **Report to Church Leadership:** Talk to the church staff leader who oversees your area. Share your concerns and the actions you have taken so far.
3. **Report to authorities:** Contact your local child protective services or law enforcement agency. An alternative is the National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4-A-CHILD.
4. **Keep confidentiality:** This is definitely not a subject for prayer requests. Let the authorities do their job and avoid reaching out to the family or to other people.

Keeping Kids Safe at Church

SIGNS OF A PREDATOR

Statistics show that 90 percent of kids who have been abused know their abuser. Because churches are generally welcoming and open environments, they can attract those who seek to harm kids. People who abuse are cunning and hide what they are doing, but there are signs you can be aware of. Predators will often:

- 1. Show extra interest in a kid:** We want adults in our churches to invest in kids, but predators will take it too far. They may have a “favorite kid” to whom they give focused attention, including providing gifts, inviting them to special events or bringing them special treats.
- 2. Try to gain trust with kids and adults:** Predators may go above and beyond to earn the trust of others. They may seem to be extra-dependable or helpful.
- 3. Spend more time with kids than adults:** The predator may seem childish or “extra fun” but has little interest in developing relationships with other people their age.
- 4. Develop secrecy with kids:** The predator’s secrets may seem innocent, such as “Don’t tell your mom I gave you that candy,” but it could be a grooming tactic on kids to protect darker secrets.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Abuse is real and the church is not immune. Here are some best practices to protect kids in your church:

- 1. Advocate for background screenings.** Be prompt in filling out your own background screening. Do not invite anyone to serve with you (out-of-town guest, friend, relative) who has not gone through your church’s screening procedures. Advocate for background checks to be repeated every few years and for volunteers to complete an online application with references. Request that background checks include cross-checking an individual’s name against the national sex offender registry.
- 2. Never be alone with a kid.** Avoid any situation where anyone is isolated with a kid. Keep doors open. If someone needs help in a bathroom, the bathroom door must always be propped open with a second approved, background-checked adult volunteer present. If a kid wants to talk, sit somewhere visible to others.
- 3. Self-enforce the two adults in a room.** While you are probably very capable of managing a group of kids by yourself, it is always best practice to have two approved, background-checked adult volunteers present. This provides accountability on multiple levels.

brite* *Ministry* LEADERS

SEPTEMBER

THIS MONTH'S ATTRIBUTE OF GOD IS: *God Is Unchanging*

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THIS MONTH'S UNIT THEME IS: *Rock Solid*

Our theme this month reminds kids that God never changes. In rock climbing, you trust solid holds, strong anchors and a secure rope. In our daily lives, God is that steady foundation. Even when situations shift or feel uncertain, God remains faithful, powerful and true. We can always rely on God, no matter what we face. God is unchanging—the Rock we can trust every step of the climb. Check out our Pinterest page for decorating ideas: <https://www.pinterest.com/britecurriculum/rock-solid/>.

BRITE in Action

Invite families to participate in a guided prayer walk around the church or nearby neighborhood. Families will stop at designated locations to pray together for neighbors, schools, church leaders, first responders and people in need. As families walk and pray, remind them that climbers stay secure by relying on solid rock and trustworthy handholds—just as we rely on God, our Rock who never changes. This event helps families practice praying together and trusting God to be their steady foundation as they care for their community.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION:

Thank your team this month for being rock-solid volunteers! Print the attached cards and pair them with a small climbing-themed gift like heavy-duty carabiners or granola bars! Take a moment to remind your volunteers how their steady faithfulness helps kids grow and keeps your ministry moving upward. A simple note and a small gift can encourage your team and show them how much their commitment means.