

INTRODUCTION

Missional communities exist to make disciples who can make disciples. *Gospel Basics for Kids* is custom-made to assist adults in making disciples of children during their intentional time with kids during worship gatherings, weekly small group meals (or missional communities), or at home. The purpose is not only to teach kids the gospel but to do so in a way that enables them to both apply it to their own lives and to teach it to others. We want to see kids living out their identities as missionaries, family, servants, and learners.

Philosophy

We believe our rhythms of life and identity as followers of Jesus apply to how we interact with children and how they interact with each other and the world around them. In other words, everything we're teaching "grown-ups" is also for kids!

When a child begins internalizing the values of the gospel at a young age, church in everyday life becomes normal. We want to equip the next generation of children to be members of a family of learners on mission. As we cast vision for gospel saturation for every man, woman, and child, we must first consider how we are calling our children to believe the gospel, and we must secondly consider how we will equip every child to go to every place with gospel intentionality.

Preparation

Each lesson has a section for the adult leaders that will help them understand the concepts for themselves and apply those truths to their hearts. We recommend setting aside thirty minutes before you teach this curriculum to read, study, and pray through the "Leader Preparation." Warning: This material can convict, encourage, and be transformative in your life, too!

Additionally, we recommend spending thirty minutes reviewing the lesson itself. Read through the curriculum and the stories beforehand. The time will be much more interactive if the teacher knows the story well enough to add inflection.

Lastly, if you are not leading each week, you should take a moment and look back on the previous weeks and read the section overviews. For example, when teaching the identity of *family*, the leader should read the overview for “Part 2: Our Gospel Identities.” This will allow the leader to lead effectively within the context of the broader material.

Story and Discussion

The lessons are meant to be conversational. Questions should flow from kids and adults. Adults should lead children to answer questions as the kids discover the gospel for themselves and adults affirm their conclusions.

Because *The Gospel Basics for Kids* is conversational, it is also adaptable. Not all children in a missional community will be the same age or at the same place in their understanding of the gospel. This curriculum should be taught by adults who know the kids and in a small-group setting that can be a personal, relational, and adaptable time to explain the Good News fully to children.

TIP: For many children, having something to work on during the story will help them engage the story. You can use the coloring sheets for this.

You can find the coloring pages and other resources to use with each lesson at:
<https://saturatetheworld.com/GB4K-extras>

Theme Verses

All three sections have key verses to be read at the end of each lesson. These passages capture the big-picture concept and root the lesson, discussion, and story in the Scriptures. You can consider making them memory verses, too.

Art Time and Activities

Each lesson includes an art project and coloring sheet to connect the story further. As kids work on these projects, keep the discussion going. Ask them questions about what they are doing and how it connects to the gospel, their identity, and rhythms of life to which God has called us.

For some lessons, we’ve included specific games and activities that integrate well with the lesson.



IMPORTANT: Final Art Show

The children will be collecting their art projects in their own “art box” that will stay in the classroom for the entire curriculum. On the last week the children will show it to their parents and bring it home. For week one, you will need to collect shoe boxes or ask parents to send small boxes for their kids to decorate and use throughout this curriculum.

Repeating *The Gospel Basics for Kids*

Everyone must return to the basics over and over again. The gospel is good news we need to hear each day.

Therefore, this curriculum is designed to be repeated. As kids and teachers walk through the stories, concepts, and activities multiple times, the gospel will become more clear, and new aspects of it can be taught.

For example, the first time children go through the lesson on the character of God, they might go away knowing what grace is and that God is full of grace. The next time, they might begin to understand God is compassionate, as well as gracious.

In fact, we’ve used this curriculum a couple of times a year with the kids in our missional community, and every time the kids learn new elements of the gospel.

If you do repeat the curriculum, be creative and use new crafts and activities. They will get tired of doing the same coloring sheet!

We have also included suggestions in the **Appendices** (page 135) on ways to enhance the stories with videos or by using *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, tips for speaking the gospel with children, and ideas for teaching children to pray.

Suggested Lesson Outline for Each Lesson

Here's a rough outline for each lesson. It's likely the story, craft, and prayer time will not fill all the time you have with the kids. This extra time is intentional. Free-play time is an important part of kids getting together!

- **Games, puzzles, or coloring sheets: 10-15 minutes**
Get to know the name of each child and build some foundational relationships. It's a good idea to have just a few things out instead of letting the kids get into anything they want in this time. For example, have out just puzzles, or use the coloring sheet for this lesson and have the kids start with coloring.
- **Review**
During this time, engage the kids in what you talked about last week. You can ask the questions in the lesson and/or recite the summary paragraph in the lesson.
- **Story and discussion: 10 minutes**
The story and discussion act like a script and are meant to be relational. They might take only five minutes; it depends on the children.
- **Theme verse and prayer: 5 minutes**
Read the verse. You could ask the kids to stand and stretch, read the verse again, and then pray together.
- **Art time: 10-15 minutes**
The art time is a great opportunity to go over the lesson again or hit points that you were not able to during the "sit down time." Place their art project and coloring sheet into their art box when they finish. At the end of the fourteen weeks, they will take their box home.

Group game/free play/singing: Remainder of time

Extra Resources

We've compiled videos, coloring sheets, and additional aids for this lesson and they're easy to use:

<https://saturatetheworld.com/GB4K-extras>