Rainbow Express

July-August 2017 Curriculum and Planning Packet

Make sure to see the note on page 8 about a new evening schedule option.
We are so grateful that the Lord is sending your group to Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex for a 2017 July - August Rainbow Express Mission Trip! Our team is praying faithfully for you as you prepare spiritually and logistically to serve with us here.

If there is anything at all that we can do to help you prepare, please do not hesitate to let us know.

You can reach us by phone at 817-277-6620 or by e-mail at the addresses listed below.

Jim Burgin, Heather Young, Jason Simon, and Steven Burgin are our groups scheduling coordinators. You can reach them via e-mail at jim@missionarlington.org, hyoung@missionarlington.org, jsimon@missionarlington.org, or sburgin@missionarlington.org

Steven Burgin is also our Rainbow Express coordinator and will be one of your primary contacts while you are on your trip. You can reach him at sburgin@missionarlington.org.

Matt Hart is one of the pastors at Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex and will be leading the devotional services for groups during your trip. You can reach him at matt@missionarlington.org.

Tillie Burgin is our founder and Executive Director and always happy to answer questions. Her e-mail is tillie@missionarlington.org.
• **Trip leader planning material**: information for the student minister or other overall trip leader about accommodations, responsibilities, expectations, and preparation. These pages have a blue border.

• **Student planning material**: some of the same information, but formatted specifically so you can hand it out to your students. Includes things like dress codes, packing lists, schedule information, etc. These pages have a green border.

• **Rainbow Express material**: the curriculum and schedule for each day’s Rainbow Express programs (which your group will be leading). These pages have a red border.
Group Leader’s Preparation Materials

Contains:

- Trip terms defined
- Schedules
- How do I prepare?
  - FAQs: accommodations, dress code, rules, etc.
  - Rainbow Express: how to train your students to lead a Rainbow Express program
- Logistics Questionnaire (to be filled out and sent to Mission Arlington before your trip)
- T-Shirt Orders
Overview: So what are we doing on this trip anyway?

A visitor to Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex once told us that we sometimes speak in code. We readily admit that so many different things are happening here that it can become a little confusing. This is an explanation of some of our key terms:

- **Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex:** We are an evangelical ministry functioning in partnership with most of the local churches in Arlington from across all denominations. Essentially, we do two basic things (which are closely intertwined): 1) we begin Bible Studies which over time grow into churches in neighborhoods (mostly low-income apartment communities) all over this city and 2) we meet a variety of physical needs through free “benevolent” programs like medical clinics, food pantries, afterschool tutoring, and more. You will be partnering with us by leading evangelistic programs in the apartment communities and other neighborhoods where we have ministries and by supporting our benevolent programs.

- **Apartment Churches:** Mission Arlington began in 1986 with a very simple philosophy: take church to people who, for whatever reason, were not coming to a church building anywhere. On the first Sunday of August of that year, a Bible Study met in the living room of a woman who lived in a local apartment community. That first morning, seventeen people found that they could meet Christ in a church that met right where they lived. Today, we have teams ministering in different ways in more than 300 apartments, mobile homes, community centers, playgrounds, laundry rooms, and wherever people will gather. Any given Sunday, more than 5,000 people attend a Mission Arlington congregation in their own neighborhood.

- **Rainbow Express:** Rainbow Express is the name of the Backyard Bible Clubs you will be leading while you are here. Mission Arlington has been leading outdoor Vacation Bible Schools for our many apartment churches since the beginning. When these programs first began the volunteers that were leading them had a large portable stage built on a trailer that they pulled from site to site for puppet shows. This trailer, which was decorated with a rainbow, came to be known to the children as the Rainbow Express. Rainbow Express then became the name for all of the Vacation Bible Schools.

- **Work Projects:** Mission Arlington follows Jesus’ model of ministry: meet both physical and spiritual needs to provide a tangible expression of the Father’s love and people will be drawn to Him. Part of each day you are here will be spent leading Rainbow Express programs. With the remainder of each day you will participate in some of Mission Arlington’s many other ministries. This might include picking up donations, delivering furniture to families, working in the clothing room or the food warehouse, passing out flyers to invite people to an event, holding field days or other fun events in one of the apartment communities, or any number of other opportunities. Any special materials or training that you may need will be provided while you are here.
Week Overview The most normal shape of a Rainbow Express week is this:

- **Saturday:** Most groups arrive Saturday afternoon to check in. We are open for check in until 8 pm. If there is a situation that prevents you from checking in by that time, please contact us before your trip and we will be happy to make arrangements to check in.

- **Sunday:** In the morning you will help us hold church services in the neighborhoods we work with. That afternoon you will join all the groups here for the week, plus our staff, for a worship time.

- **Note—**some groups (because they have responsibilities in their home church services on Sunday morning) do not participate in Sunday’s activities because they travel and check in that day instead. As with Saturdays, we are available to check in until 8 pm. (If for some reason you cannot have at least one adult check in by 8 pm, contact us ahead of time and we will make arrangements.)

- **Monday—Thursday:** You will lead Rainbow Express these days. All groups will meet together twice: in the morning for a devotional time and in the afternoon for a brief worship service.

- **Friday—Saturday:** Friday is an optional day. Some groups continue to serve with us. Some groups go home Friday morning. Others take Friday as a free day for Six Flags or other recreational activity. All groups check out by Saturday morning.

More detailed schedules for each day are below and on the following page.

### Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM Meet at Mission Arlington with all groups for welcome, prayer, and orientation

10:00 AM Participate in Mission Arlington’s apartment churches by helping invite, serve, and teach Sunday School in an apartment community or other Mission Arlington congregation.

12:30 PM Return from apartment churches, take lunch break

1:30 PM Pass out flyers in apartment communities where Rainbow Express will be taking place this week.

3:15 PM Return to Mission Arlington

4:00 PM Join Mission Arlington missionaries for weekly prayer, worship, and preparation time. (There will be a very brief leaders’ meeting immediately after this worship time.)

5:15 PM Leave Mission Arlington, pray and make any last minute preparations for beginning Rainbow Express tomorrow
Schedule Information: Tentative Monday—Thursday

Please see the note about our new evening Rainbow Express option on the following page.

Monday—Thursday

8:30   Meet at Mission Arlington for morning devotional time
9:45   Morning Rainbow Express groups leave for their site
10:30  Morning Rainbow Express begins
NOON  Morning Rainbow Express ends. Clean up, walk children home, etc., then take a lunch break.
1:30   Meet to worship and prepare for Rainbow Express
2:30   Depart for Rainbow Express
3:00   Rainbow Express begins
4:30   Rainbow Express ends. Clean up.
5:00   Turn in daily report to Mission Arlington. Options for projects in the evenings will be made available during the week.

So, that concludes our very important announcements for this morning . . .

don’t be that group

Please be on time to all the meeting times on your schedule. It affects everybody else if your group shows up late because you made a coffee run on the way.

If anybody asks, tell them we had a flat tire . . . and that we witnessed extensively to the guy that helped us change it.
We are very excited about a new evening Rainbow Express option.

We have begun to hold Rainbow Express in the evenings in some of our sites. These have been some of the best and most productive Rainbow Expresses we have ever had. We are able to connect with more people as we find more students at home from extracurricular activities or daycare, more parents at home after work, and more curious neighbors outside just to see what is going on. If you are interested in leading Rainbow Express in the evenings, let us know and we can work with you on schedule details that will work well for your group.

If you are doing Rainbow Express in the evening you might decide not to have either a morning or afternoon project to give your schedule more breathing room. We have also had some groups do the full day from morning until evening and find the extra effort to be spiritually fruitful and a strong bonding opportunity for their group. Let us know what will be best for your group and we will help make it work.
We are praying that God will reveal Himself to your students during their time at Mission Arlington in ways that bring about permanent, life-changing discipleship. We believe these rules help us keep that focus.

**DRESS CODE**
Mission Arlington’s dress code is very basic. We ask all participants to dress modestly, comfortably, and in something where they are ready to work. Casual dress is fine all week long, Sunday included. Here are a few specific requests we make of all groups:

- Shorts are fine all week long. Please no short shorts.
- Footwear is up to you, but because we do so much work and active play outside we recommend tennis shoes over flip-flops.
- T-shirts are great to wear, but please no tank tops or any other kinds of sleeveless shirts.
- Baseball caps are fine, but please wear forward at all times. Do not wear bandanas or any other type of head gear. (Winter headgear is okay if it’s cold.)

Note—if a student chooses to dress in something that does not fit with our dress code, a Mission Arlington staff member will ask them to change before you begin your day’s assignments. This only slows down your group and gives you less time to effectively minister during the day. So, please stick to the dress code.

Please remember that there are certain things you might wear at home working outside in the heat but that may not be the right image for knocking on doors and asking parents to let their children go with you.

**CONDUCT GUIDELINES**

- **Be focused on the most important thing:** Mission work is full of surprises. God has a specific plan for you, and for the many lives He will use you to touch. The best preparation for this experience is spiritual. Keep reading your Bible daily, both before you come, and while you are here. Make sure you keep your quiet time with the Lord as a firm commitment. Don’t miss your moments with Him.

- **Let’s be good stewards together:** All of Mission Arlington’s facilities are donated to us. Any money that goes into repairs and maintenance is less money we can use in our assistance programs. So, let’s be good stewards of what the Lord has given us:
  - Don’t adjust thermostats
  - There is no housekeeping staff. So, help clean up spills, take out trash, and generally be clean and neat. Don’t do things that will create clean up jobs for other people (for example, don’t use sidewalk chalk at Rainbow Express. It leaves work for apartment staff to wash it off.)
  - Don’t do anything silly. We don’t want to be unable to buy prescriptions for our medical clinic because we had to patch sheetrock or replace windows. (This includes in the apartment communities.) Don’t roughhouse. Don’t use any balls anywhere that aren’t foam.

- **Help us present a good image to everyone.** We need to maintain a good relationship and a positive witness with everyone around your activities or facilities.
  - Make sure that your noise level is under control. Do not play loud music, stay up too late at your accommodations, etc. Help us be a good picture of Christ to those around you.
  - Be sensitive to other people’s needs. Be courteous and grateful everywhere you go. It is especially crucial that you control the noise level where you are staying. We cannot have loud music, parties, outside games, etc. We want everywhere to be our mission field, and that includes where you sleep at night.
Accommodations: Where are we staying?

Some of you, we know, will be spending the nights in a hotel or other location that you have set up. This page answers common questions for the rest of you who have chosen to stay in the accommodations that we provide.

- **Where will we be staying?** Mission Arlington uses several different types of facilities to house guests. All of them boil down to the same basic concept: a safe, clean floor to sleep on, showers, and a kitchen. Smaller groups (anything up to about twenty people) generally stay in one apartment in an apartment community where we minister. Larger groups generally stay in one of our community centers or in a local traditional church that partners with Mission Arlington. Because group sizes have a tendency to fluctuate so much at the last minute, we do not make final assignments of who will stay where until the week before your arrival.

- **How much does it cost?** We do not charge anything to stay in any of our accommodations. There are costs involved for items such as utilities, rent, maintenance, etc. Voluntary donations are very welcome, but not necessary. We believe God always provides.

- **What do I need to bring?** It is a good idea to plan as if you were coming into a completely empty facility. Often our supplies get accidentally packed up by groups when they are leaving and they don’t realize it is not a part of what they brought. So, to be on the safe side it is wise to bring or buy here everything you might need: toiletries, kitchen supplies, air mattresses, and more.

**Here are some other tips to prepare for a successful experience in our accommodations:**

- **Be flexible and unpack only what you need each day:** Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex is a very busy place. All of our facilities are constantly being used to reach people for the Lord. When you check in for your trip, you will be given a schedule of any activities that might be happening in the location where you are staying. In other words, while your group is out leading Rainbow Express there may be activities happening in the rooms where you are staying.

- **View your accommodations location as another ministry opportunity:** Every place where you will be staying, whether in an apartment or at one of our gyms, is surrounded by other apartments or neighborhoods where the people might know nothing of church except what they see in you. When you park your church van and climb out, the people around you know that you represent Mission Arlington, and much more importantly, our Savior. They may come over to ask you questions. The neighborhood children might want to play tag. Represent Christ in all that you do while you are there, from your behavior in the parking lot, to noise level inside, to how clean you keep the place. Let people see Him in you, and you will find that your “mission trip day” will not end when you return to your home away from home in the evenings.

- Be realistic. That means be prepared for all the adventure that comes from people sharing small spaces.
- Plan on minimizing what you bring. Twin sized (as opposed to queen sized) air mattresses will take up less space.
- Expect a small, apartment sized kitchen when you are planning your meals.
- You will only have one shower for every ten to fifteen people on your group. Be as efficient as possible and leave yourself plenty of time to get everything done.
Packing Lists

Here are some items you will need for your trip. We want to minimize costs as much as possible. If there are some items you are not able to bring, check with us (our contact info is on page 2). We might be able to loan you some of the items you need.

For Rainbow Express, bring with you:

- Some of the memory verse activities require simple supplies like balloons or popsicle sticks.
- Tarp (at least 10’ by 10’): excellent to use for the children to sit on during Rainbow Express
- Posterboard: use it for memory verse posters, puzzles, etc.
- Puppets: Mission Arlington has some to loan if you don’t have access to puppets
- Some kind of staging for the puppets. If you don’t have a puppet stage the two easiest/cheapest options are 1) hang an extra tarp or blanket across a broom handle or PVC pipe and have 2 volunteers hold it up or 2) many appliance stores will give away free large cardboard boxes you can use as an impromptu stage (see the illustration.)
- Any music you might need for your puppet time at Rainbow Express.
- Water cooler and drinking cups.

- Snacks. Mission Arlington will have some things available, but it helps if your church can also bring cookies, candy, chips, crackers, etc.
- Craft supplies: Mission Arlington will provide some glue, scissors, crayons, etc. You may find it helps your group run smoother if you have some extras.
- Games equipment: cones, hula hoops, etc. will be very useful during your game time. Note: Please do NOT bring balls or frisbees unless they are of the soft, “Nerf” foam variety.

If you are staying in our accommodations:

(Prepare as if your were coming to a completely empty facility)

- Materials for meals: remember that you are responsible for all your own food. Most groups do sack lunches or fast food for lunch. Breakfasts and dinners are up to you. If you plan to cook remember that you are only guaranteed access to a normal, residential apartment-sized kitchen and make sure to bring any pots or pans you might need.
- Paper products: paper towels, plates, cups, plasticware, etc.
- Cleaning supplies
- Each person will need their own sleeping bag, pillow, and air mattress. (Encourage everybody to bring twin-sized air mattresses. You probably won’t have room for large air mattresses in the apartment.)
The Refrigerator Sheet for Parents

FOR ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING JULY - AUGUST MISSION TRIP

For our July - August Mission Trip this year we will be going to Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex in Arlington, Texas. We will be serving with Mission Arlington through participating in apartment churches, leading Rainbow Express (Mission Arlington’s version of a Vacation Bible School), and a variety of work projects.

- **Mailing Address:** 210 W. South Street, Arlington, TX, 76010. (Note—you are welcome to send students mail while they are at Mission Arlington. On the outside envelope indicate the name of the student *and the name of the church or school with whom they are on Mission Trip*. Please allow time for mail delivery and for the Mission Arlington staff to sort it and deliver it to our group. You will want to have mailed things by Monday for your students to receive them during their trip here. Any unclaimed mail at the end of the week will be returned to sender.)

- **Website:** www.missionarlington.org
- **Phone:** 817-277-6620
- **Fax:** 817-277-3388
- **E-mail:** mission@missionarlington.org
Preparing for Rainbow Express

For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? Romans 10:13-14

Rainbow Express is Mission Arlington’s version of a backyard Bible Club.

Your group will be leading one or more Rainbow Express program during the week you are here.

The following pages will help you prepare your team.
• **Step one: How many teams will we be?**
  
  - Rainbow Express is held in the apartment communities where Mission Arlington is holding, planting, or hoping to plant a church. The average daily attendance at any given Rainbow Express is 20-30 elementary aged children and a few youth. A team from your group of 8-10 college students, 10-15 high school students plus their sponsors, or 12-18 junior high students plus their sponsors is ideal for leading one Rainbow Express. Thus, a group bringing 15 people will be one team, a group with 20 is probably two teams, and a group of 45 could be anywhere from three to five teams, depending on the ages. *Note—decide how many teams you will be based on the size of your group, not on your transportation situation. We can make site assignments that will work with any transportation configuration: whether you are carpooling or renting charter buses.*

  
  Don’t form your teams much larger than recommended. There’s a discipleship reason for this: teams of 10-15 size allow each of your students to have a specific, important role and gently pushes them to “step up to the plate.” Forming teams too large leaves room for some students to not have to take ownership and initiative in leading a Rainbow Express. Let God have the opportunity to help your students rise to the occasion and use them in ways they won’t expect.

• **Step two: Who’s on each team?**
  
  - Each team will need at least one adult sponsor (not necessary if the team is college students). The 10–18 students will each need one or more of the team member assignments explained on the next page. Use the descriptions and the worksheet provided to make team assignments.

• **Step three: Start practicing.**
  
  - Assign your students their roles, pass out the Rainbow Express materials (later in this packet) and then let them start learning their jobs. We recommend holding at least a couple of practice run-throughs if possible. One good option is let your team use their Rainbow Express material to lead children’s Sunday School at your church for a couple of weeks.

• **Step four: Gather what you need.**
  
  - We try to make the cost for your trip as low as possible. You should not need to spend much (if any) money on Rainbow Express supplies. On page 11 you will find lists of what you need to provide for leading Rainbow Express. We will have everything else.
Each Rainbow Express Team will have the following functions. Assign each student and adult per team to at least one of these jobs. More detailed instructions for each job are in the red section.

- **Adult team leader/Sponsor:** You will need at least one adult per team. College students can fill this role as well.
- **Song leader**
- **Memory Verse teacher**
- **Large group leader**
- **Puppet wrangler**
- **Games leader**
- **Attendance taker:** this person’s responsibility is to make sure we have good contact information for everybody you make contact with during your mission trip so that Mission Arlington / Mission Metroplex can provide follow-up discipleship after you are gone. If possible, this is a good job for an adult.
- **Youth leader:** this does not refer to the youth minister but to a member of your Rainbow Express team that will be in charge of working with any teenagers that attend your Rainbow Express
- **Small group teams:** much of the Rainbow Express program will take place in small groups. All team members will help during the small group time. Assign each team member a partner. That pair will lead a small group together.

There is a blank team roster on the next page. Make one copy for each of your teams and write in who will be fulfilling each responsibility. These sheets should be passed out to each adult sponsor in your group and to Mission Arlington coordinators while you are here. (You will not be able to fill in the Rainbow Express site names until you are at Mission Arlington.)
### Rainbow Express Team Roster: Team

| Adult Sponsor(s): |  |
| Team Leader: |  |
| Large Group Leader: |  |
| Song Leader: |  |
| Memory Verse Teacher: |  |
| Puppet Wrangler: |  |
| Game Leader: |  |
| Attendance Taker: |  |
| Youth Leader: |  |
| Small Group Partner pairs: |  |

*(This is all students in your group, matched in pairs to lead small groups)*

*Remember that one person can have more than one responsibility.*

Contact Cell Phone Number:
AM Rainbow Express Site:
*(to be filled in at Mission Arlington)*
PM Rainbow Express Site:
*(to be filled in at Mission Arlington)*
Logistics Questionnaire

After reading through the entire blue section of this packet, please answer the following questions. The sooner you can provide this information to Mission Arlington, the more successfully we will be able to prepare for your time here. You can turn this information in one of two ways: e-mail it to Steven Burgin at sburgin@missionarlington.org or fax it to us at 817-277-3388. Please have this to us at least one month prior to your arrival. Please answer all questions, even if you have already given us some of this information. It helps us double check our records. We know last-minute changes are common on youth trips. It is no problem for any of this information to change, just let us know as soon as possible.

1) Confirm the correct wording of your group name (so we don’t accidentally call you First Baptist instead of First Christian the whole week, etc.)
2) Who will be our primary contact while you are here?
3) Is there anything we can do to help you prepare for Rainbow Express?
4) How many students do you expect to bring? How many sponsors?
5) Confirm the date and approximate time of your arrival at the Mission? (We are in the office until 8 pm each evening. If extenuating circumstances require you arrive later than that please make sure we know so that we can work with you on a plan to check in, receive your keys, etc.)
6) Confirm the date and approximate time you will be leaving from Mission Arlington
7) If you are going to be helping us on Sunday mornings please send us a list of names with a “T” by those people who are comfortable teaching a Bible Study and an “H” by those who prefer to help.
8) What type of transportation are you bringing (vans, buses, etc.) and how many vehicles?
9) How many Rainbow Express teams will you have? How many will be on each team? (Our suggested team size is about 10 to 15 people.)
10) What is a cell phone number where we can reach you as you are traveling or when you arrive?
11) Are you planning to stay in accommodations arranged by Mission Arlington?
12) Is there anything else we need to know about your accommodations situation?
13) Many of our accommodations are upstairs in apartments, etc, so please make sure we know if your group requires handicapped access.
14) Some of the local churches that are housing groups have kitchenettes (refrigerator and microwave but no stove/oven—meaning only the ability to prepare sandwiches, cereal, etc.) as opposed to full kitchens. We will make sure that every group that will be cooking has access to a full kitchen. If you know your group does not need a full kitchen because you are eating out in the evenings, etc. it will help us to know that ahead of time so we can match you with one of those churches.
Every year Mission Arlington/ Mission Metroplex makes mission trip t-shirts available for groups. *This is an optional expense—no one is required to buy shirts.* Shirts are available in sizes from Adult Small to XXX-Large for $10 each.

There are three ways to order shirts: 1) buy them while you are here. 2) pre-buy with check or credit card and pick them up during your trip and 3) order with check or credit card and have us mail them to you (there will be an extra charge for shipping that will depend on how many shirts you purchase).

If you need more information about shirts, or to place an order, call Steven Burgin or Debbie Musgrave at 817-277-6620 or e-mail sburgin@missionarlington.org.

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### T-Shirt Order Form

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**For those paying with Credit Card:**

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| Contact # (in case of questions regarding credit card) | }
The 2017 Mission Arlington® / Mission Metroplex ® shirt. Shirts are available for ten dollars in sizes from adult small - XXX-large. The order form is on the preceding page.
Student Preparation
Materials

Contains:

- Packing List
- Spiritual Preparation Helps
- Dress Code and Rules
Packing List

Here are some items you will need for your trip:

1) Bible: keep it with you all the time. It will be your most important lifeline for the week.
2) Sleeping bag or other bedroll
3) Air mattress or other cot (nothing bigger than twin size)
4) Towels, washcloths, toiletries
5) Your Rainbow Express material: your copies of the lessons for small group, plus any materials you need for your specific assignment (memory verse posters for the memory verse teacher, puppet music for the puppet wrangler, etc.)

6) Clothing: see dress code on the next page. Bring plenty of comfortable clothing and be ready for Texas summer weather, which means temperatures of 95 degrees or above. **Note—if you choose to dress in something that does not fit with our dress code, a Mission Arlington staff member will ask you to change before you begin your day’s assignments. This only slows down your group and gives you less time to effectively minister during the day. So, please stick to the dress code.**

7) A daily backpack: (This optional suggestion is borrowed from some of our groups, and it has worked great for them.) Bring a backpack with any or all of the following items:
   8) Extra Bibles to give away
   9) Small, basic first aid kit
   10) Trash bags for cleaning up while you are at Rainbow Express
   11) Water bottle (**very** good idea)
   12) Candy or small prizes to give away
   13) Extra activities to do with the children and youth at your Rainbow Express that match up with your skills. Whether it’s a hacky sack or extra nail polish (pictured to the right) what hobby or talent do you have that you can share with the children you are ministering to on mission trip?
DRESS CODE

Mission Arlington’s dress code is very basic. We ask all participants to dress modestly, comfortably, and in something where they are ready to work. Casual dress is fine all week long, Sunday included. Here are a few specific requests we make of all groups:
- Shorts are fine all week long. Please no short shorts.
- Footwear is up to you, but because we do so much work and active play outside we recommend tennis shoes over flip-flops.

Please remember that there are certain things you might wear at home working outside in the heat but that may not be the right image for knocking on doors and asking parents to let their children go with you. Because of this, please follow these additional guidelines all week long:
- T-shirts are great to wear, but please no tank tops or any other kinds of sleeveless shirts.
- Baseball caps are fine, but please wear forward at all times. Do not wear bandanas or any other type of head gear. (Winter headgear is okay if it’s cold.)

CONDUCT GUIDELINES

- Be focused on the most important thing: Mission work is full of surprises. God has a specific plan for you, and for the many lives He will use you to touch. The best preparation for this experience is spiritual. Keep reading your Bible daily, both before you come, and while you are here. Make sure you keep your quiet time with the Lord as a firm commitment. Don’t miss your moments with Him.

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- Help us present a good image to everyone that may come through your activities or facilities and maintain a good relationship and a positive witness with the neighbors around your activities or facilities.
  - Make sure that your noise level is under control. Do not play loud music, stay up too late at your accommodations, etc. Help us be a good picture of Christ to those around you.
  - Be sensitive to other people’s needs. Be courteous and grateful everywhere you go. It is especially crucial that you control the noise level where you are staying. We cannot have loud music, parties, outside games, etc. We want everywhere to be our mission field, and that includes where you sleep at night.
In Acts chapter 4 Peter, when threatened if he ever spoke in the name of Jesus again, responded “we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” Do you feel that way about your salvation? Are you so thrilled by the fact that God would save a sinner like you that you cannot help but talk about it. Unfortunately, sometimes we convince our selves it is hard to talk about our faith. When we share our testimony, we are being witnesses, reporting the Good News of the everything-changing difference Christ has made in our lives. Here are some tips to help you share your testimony at Rainbow Express this week.

- **Be Brief**—Remember the age of the children you are working with. They have short attention spans. You want them to understand and remember your point. The longer you talk, the less they may walk away with. Your goal should be not more than five minutes each for two testimonies, six to seven minutes for one, tops.

- **Be Simple**—Your children will not understand the phrase “I used to really struggle with trying to keep the reprobate, carnal impulses of my fleshly nature under control until I accepted the sanctifying work of the Lamb on the cross”. They will understand “When I pray and ask Jesus for help, He helps me do what God wants me to do”. Avoid the temptation to speak *churchese* while you share. Talk like you really talk.

- **Be Animated**—Let your love for Jesus show in your words, face, gestures, and tone of voice. If you share your testimony like you would share a school report on 18th century garbanzo bean farming techniques, the children will not care. If you are excited about what Christ has done in your life, the children will be too.

- **Be Excited**—Sometimes there is a temptation to think that your personal testimony may not be as interesting as somebody else’s. Remember that we never need to compare our relationship with Christ to another. It took just as much of Jesus’ sacrifice to save us as it did any other human being on the planet. Be excited and grateful for what God did in your life, whether it happened as an adult in prison or a five-year-old in Sunday School.

- **Be Prayerful**—Like everything else you do this week, sharing your testimony must be bathed in prayer. Ask God to give you the right words and demeanor. Ask Him to prepare the hearts of the people that will be hearing.

- **Give God the Glory**—This may sound obvious: but remember to make your testimony about God. Your testimony is not about the bad things you used to do. It’s not about the good things you do now. It is about the change that Jesus brought in your life. It is about His sacrifice and His forgiveness. Make sure people walk away from your testimony impressed by Jesus, not by you.
Prayer Guide

We will be serving with Mission Arlington this July - August because we believe that our Father, the Lord of the Harvest, is sending us into His harvest fields. With that in mind, we need to spend time each day as we prepare for this trip asking the Lord to make it exactly what He wants it to be. Here are some thoughts to help you in your prayer times for this mission trip.

• Pray for our team as we prepare to go. Help us to be ready logistically and, most importantly, spiritually. We can’t be effective sharing the gospel until we ourselves are above all else in love with the Father.

• Pray for the Mission Arlington missionaries who will be “preparing the soil” before we arrive and following up with discipleship after we leave.

• Pray for each neighborhood where we will be ministering. Pray that God will draw exactly the people He wants to hear the message.

• Pray that the gospel will be presented clearly in all that we do.

• Pray that God will draw people to Himself and that they will respond to our message by putting their faith in Him.

• Pray for more year round missionaries for Mission Arlington who will continue to plant churches in these neighborhoods.

Some Scripture to Help You Pray

• As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. 1 Samuel 12:23 **We don’t want to sin by not praying for the people God is sending us to teach.**

• Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 **We want this week to be according to God’s plan, not ours. His perfect plan will be above and beyond anything we could plan.**

• Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! 1 Chronicles 16:24. **We go on mission because God is worthy of being shared about. Let’s help Arlington see His marvelous works!**
Rainbow Express Preparation Materials

- Outline for each day’s Rainbow Express
- Instructions for each team member
- Supplemental materials for each activity: memory verse, games, songs, etc.
Rainbow Express Overview

♦ When you arrive at your site, have one adult leader check in with the office of the apartment community each day to let them know you are there. Always offer to help with anything the office staff might need.

♦ Begin by gathering the children and teenagers that will be attending. This will involve knocking on all the doors of the apartment community to invite people. The games leader and attendance taker will wait for the children at the site. All other team members need to knock on doors.

♦ As the children arrive, begin playing games. Write down each child’s name and apartment number on the attendance sheet.

♦ After finishing the games, begin singing songs as you gather the children into a large group to begin. You may want to sing a couple of songs, then do a puppet song, then sing another song, then a puppet song. This will give the puppet team a chance to rest their arms in between songs.

  † The Song Leader will come to the front of the group to lead songs. One or two others may also want to come to the front to help show motions. Be sure to have several songs ready to sing and that everyone in the group knows the songs.

♦ Each day the Large Group Leader will welcome the children and provide an introduction to the day’s themes and activities. The more creative and engaging the Large Group Leader acts, the more interested and involved the children will be during the large group.

♦ A couple of students share their testimony. (There are tips on preparing your testimony on the student preparation packet.)

♦ Ask for prayer requests and pray.

♦ The Memory Verse leader will lead the children in learning the memory verse during the first memory verse activity. (There are suggested memory verse activities for each day in the memory verse teacher instructions portion of this section. Remember that you need to provide whatever materials you need for the memory verse activities.)

♦ Divide up into small groups, as small as you can depending on the number of children and people in your group. Plan on dividing your small groups based on age and gender (for example: 1) preschool, 2) younger elementary boys, 2) younger elementary girls, 3) older elementary boys, 4) older elementary girls, and so on. Depending on who actually attends your Rainbow Express site be prepared to flex if need be in the way you divide.

♦ Each small group team will share the day’s Bible Story while in their small group.
Take this time after the story to pray with the children in your small group. Ask them for things they would like to pray about. Tell God how awesome He is. Ask Him to help you and the children in your small group to listen to God and obey Him. Pray that the children in your group will get to know God and feel the love He has for them.

Hands on activity: you will have an activity for the children in your small group to do during this time. Days 1, 2, and 4 you will have activity packets with coloring sheets, word searches, mazes, and memory-verse related word games. Day 3 you will make salvation bead bracelets. All of these materials will be provided by Mission Arlington while you are here.

While still in small groups, review the week’s memory verse. You can do a small group version of the same memory verse activity you used in large group time, or choose from one of the other suggested activities in the memory verse teacher material. (Remember that you need to provide whatever materials you need for the memory verse activities.)

Reassemble for a large group closing time. The Large Group Leader will lead a short review time to help wrap up the day’s activities.

Play games until it is time for Rainbow Express to end.

Pass out snacks to each child. Have the children eat snacks there so you can make sure all trash is cleaned up.

It is mandatory that you walk each child home after Rainbow Express.

After everything is cleaned up and all children are walked home, come back to Mission Arlington to turn in your reports for the day.
Tips for a Successful Rainbow Express

- **PRAY!** This is what will make or break your week. Everything you do must be bathed in prayer.
- When you first get out to the apartment community, most of the team needs to go door to door and round up the children. Some children will come early, so one or two people need to be ready to stay at the site to play games with the children (rather than knock on doors).
- Parents and older youth will probably stand around the perimeter. Get to know them, talk with them, and invite them to the Bible study at that particular apartment complex. You will receive the information about these Bible Studies when you are here.
- The opening and closing Large Group Times can be a difficult time to keep the children’s attention. The more energy, preparation, and creativity you put in, the more interested and involved the children will become.
- Be sure you are always with the children. You can make a difference in their lives this week. They want and need your undivided attention.
- Love all the children. Try to get to know each of them.
- Remember that you have important jobs to be done. Don’t forget your responsibilities.
- If you are not leading the singing or telling the story, sit among the children.
- Have fun! If you are having fun, the children will have fun. Likewise, if your attitude isn’t the best, they will imitate your attitude.
- Everyone needs to make sure that every child and his/her apartment number are on the attendance list.
- Everyone work together and help each other.
- **PRAY!** Remember to pray without ceasing the whole week.

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**I tweeted what you told me after devotional. That was inspiring.**

**I texted Robyn what that kid just said. He’s too cute!**

**I just checked in at Mission Arlington on Foursquare. Because people still do that I think.**

**I put our song time this morning on youtube so I can remember it when we get back.**

**Something something Instagram . . .**

**Do you think they might actually interact with us at some point?**

**It doesn’t look promising.**

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**don’t be that group**

Don’t just carry your comfort zone around with you. When you’re on mission, stow the electronics. Be 100% present with the kids so they know God is 100% with them.
Adult Team Leader / Sponsor

- Be the prayer leader for your group. *Pray* for your team, the people you will encounter in Arlington, and for the Mission Arlington workers that are preparing the way and will be doing follow up.

- **Communicate with Mission Arlington** staff with any questions or problems during Rainbow Express: if you get lost, if you’re not sure where to set up, if you need extra supplies, etc.

- Make sure your team is getting **good contact info for everybody that attends** so that Mission Arlington missionaries can follow up.

- Make sure that **each day during the trip your report is turned in to Mission Arlington** at the end of the day (this will involve the day’s Rainbow Express attendance and information on any special follow-up needs you encounter.)

- Each night during your trip: oversee the preparation of all other team members for tomorrow’s Rainbow Express. Ensure that any advance preparation needed for crafts, memory verse activities, or closing activities has been done.

- Be very familiar with the lessons and activities for each day. **Make sure EVERY child gets walked home** at the end of EVERY Rainbow Express.

- The first day of Rainbow Express, be sure to **connect with the apartment manager** and any other office personnel in the neighborhood where you are leading Rainbow Express.

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**don’t be that group**

Mission Arlington will give you directions and instructions for every neighborhood where we send you. Please compare your GPS to these instructions. If they disagree, check with us before you go. We once had two groups miss the entire first day of Rainbow Express because they trusted their GPS and ended up miles from where the kids were waiting for them.

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Yes, Aubrey, as a matter of fact I do think that this must be Shady Canyon Apartments. The GPS said to turn right . . .
Small Group Teams

♦ You will be telling the stories to your small group. Pray that God will prepare the hearts of the kids you will be sharing with to hear His message.

♦ All the Bible stories this week are intended to help the children see that they can trust God’s way for life and salvation.

♦ Before you come, read all of the stories in the Bible and as they are retold for children in the following pages. Know each story well. As you tell the story have your Bible open to the story. Never read to the kids word for word from the packet!

♦ Help your children or youth to understand that the story they are learning comes from the Bible. Be very familiar with the scripture and then use the retelling as a guide to communicate the themes to the children you are working with.

♦ Be excited about the story you are teaching. Have fun as you share the love of Christ. The kids need to know that you believe what you are saying and really want them to understand. Make eye contact with the kids and give them 100% of your attention and energy.

♦ Take the time to get to know the children in your small group. They need to know you care about them.

♦ Watch the kids as you teach. If you are losing their attention, try to involve them more. Make sure the kids hear the message.

♦ Review the story at the end by asking questions.

♦ Always have your Bible with you while you are leading your small group. Help the children understand that the stories you are teaching this week are true stories from the Bible that help us know how to follow Jesus.
Songs Leader

♦ You will be leading songs with your Rainbow Express group. Pray that God will help the kids to learn the songs so they can carry the message of Christ’s love with them.

♦ The following pages contain some suggested “Sunday School songs” to get you thinking about songs to use.

♦ You are not limited to doing only the songs in the list. Feel free to do any other children’s songs that your group knows. If you see songs you don’t know in the packet, you can find lots of them on youtube.

♦ Have songs chosen ahead of time that you will sing each day. You can take requests, but have a list of songs ready.

♦ Sing “stand up” songs with lots of motions first, then sing “sit down” songs to prepare the children for the puppet show or Bible story.

♦ Be sure all of the team members know the songs you are going to sing. All team members should sing with enthusiasm.
1. **Bubbling**
   It’s bubbling, it’s bubbling, it’s bubbling in my soul.
   There’s singing and laughter since Jesus made me whole.
   Folks don’t understand it, I cannot keep it quiet!!
   It’s bubbling, bubbling, bubbling, bubbling, bubbling day and night.

2. **Come and Go with Me**
   Come and go with me to my Father’s house.
   Come and go with me to my Father’s house.
   It’s a big, big house with lots and lots of room.
   A big, big table with lots and lots of food.
   A big, big yard where we can play football.
   A big, big house, it’s my Father’s house.

3. **Deep and Wide**
   Deep and wide, deep and wide.
   There’s a fountain flowin’ deep and wide.
   Deep and wide, deep and wide.
   There’s a fountain flowin’ deep and wide.

4. **Do You Love my Jesus**
   Deep, deep Ohhh deep down down.
   Deep down in my heart, I love you Jesus.
   Deep, deep Ohhh deep down down.
   Deep down in my heart.
   Do you love my Jesus deep down in your heart?
   Yes I love my Jesus deep down in my heart.

5. **Father Abraham**
   Father Abraham had many sons.
   Many sons had Father Abraham.
   I am one of them, and so are you.
   So let’s just praise the Lord - Right Arm!

   ...Left arm, right foot, left foot, nod your head, turn around, sit down!

6. **God Is So Good**
   God is so good, God is so good,
   God is so good, He’s so good to me.
   He answers prayer...
   I love Him so....

7. **Give Me Oil in my Lamp**
   Give me oil in my lamp,
   Keep me burning, burning, burning.
   Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.
   Give me oil in my lamp,
   Keep me burning, burning, burning.
   Keep me burning til the break of day.
   Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna,
   Sing Hosanna to the King of Kings.
   Sing Hosanna, sing Hosanna,
   Sing Hosanna to the King.

   Give me gas in my Ford,
   Keep me truckin’ for the Lord....
   Give me wax on my board,
   Keep me surfin’ for the Lord....
   Give me umption in my gumption,
   Make me function, function, function....

8. **The B-I-B-L-E**
   The B-I-B-L-E, yes that’s the book for me.
   I stand alone on the Word of God.
   The B-I-B-L-E.

9. **He’s a Peach of a Savior**
   He’s a peach of a Savior.
   He’s the apple of my eye.
   He prunes away the branches when my branches get too high.
   He stomps my grapes of wrath when my life gets too tough.
   That’s why I’m bananas for the Lord.
   He’s the vine and we’re the branches.
   He’s the vine and we’re the branches.
   That’s why I’m bananas for the Lord.

10. **I’m All Wrapped Up**
    I’m all wrapped up, I’m all tied up,
    I’m all tangled up in Jesus.
    I’m all wrapped up, I’m all tied up,
    I’m all tangled up in God.
    I’m all wrapped up, I’m all tied up,
    I’m all tangled up in Jesus.
    I’m all wrapped up, tied up, tangled up in God.

11. **I’m Gonna Sing, Sing, Sing**
    I’m gonna sing, sing, sing.
    I’m gonna shout, shout, shout.
    I’m gonna sing, I’m gonna shout,
    Praise the Lord.
    When those gates are opened wide.
    I’m gonna sit by Jesus’ side.
    I’m gonna sing, I’m gonna shout,
    Praise the Lord.

12. **I’m in the Lord’s Army**
    I may never march in the infantry.
    I may never fly o’er the enemy.
    But I’m in the Lord’s army, Yes sir!
    I’m in the Lord’s army, Yes sir!
    I’m in the Lord’s army, Yes sir!
    I may never march in the infantry, ride in the cavalry, shoot the artillery.
    But I’m in the Lord’s army.

13. **I’ve Got a River of Life**
    I’ve got a river of life flowing out of me.
    Makes the lame to walk and the blind to see.
    Opens prisoners’ doors, sets the captives free.
    I've got a river of life flowing out of me.
    Spring up oh well (gush gush gush gush) within my soul.
    Spring up oh well (splish splash) and make me whole.
    Spring up oh well (whoosh) and give to me.
    That life abundantly.

14. **I’ve Got Joy Down in my Heart**
    I’ve got joy down in my heart.
    Deep deep down in my heart.
    Spell it J-O-Y Down in my heart.
    That life abundantly.

15. **I’ve Got Peace Like a River**
    I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river.
    I’ve got peace like a river in my soul.
I’ve got peace like a river, I’ve got peace like a river
I’ve got peace like a river in my soul
I’ve got joy like a fountain……
I’ve got peace, love, and joy like a river mountain fountain……

16. I Have So Much
I have so much, so much, so much, so much, so much, so much, so much, so much, so much (clap) to be thankful for. (REPEAT)
I have Jesus to be thankful for......
I have the Bible to be thankful for......
I have you to be thankful for......

17. Little Square Box
If I had a little square box to put Jesus in,
I’d take Him out and hug His neck and share Him with a friend
But if I had a little square box to put the devil in,
I’d take him out and STOMP HIS FACE and put him back again.

18. I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy
I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart
Where? Down in my heart
Where? Down in my heart
I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy in my heart
Down in my heart to stay
And I’m so happy, so very happy
I’ve got love of Jesus in my heart
Down in my heart
And I’m so happy, so very happy
I’ve got love of Jesus in my heart

And if the devil doesn’t like it
he can sit on a tack! Ouch!......
And if the devil doesn’t like it
he can swallow a bomb! Boom!......
And if the devil doesn’t like it
he can fall off a cliff! Ahhh!......
I’ve got the wonderful love of my blessed redeemer way down in the depths of my heart....

19. If You’re Happy and You Know It
If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands
If you’re happy and you know it then your face will surely show it
If you’re happy and you know it clap your hands
If you’re happy and you know it stomp your feet...
If you’re happy and you know it say Amen...
If you’re happy and you know it Praise the Lord...
If you’re happy and you know it say Yee-Haw...

20. Jesus in the Morning
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus when the sun goes down
Love Him....
Serve Him...
Praise Him...
Share Him....
Thank Him...

21. Jesus Is my Rock
Jesus is my Rock, and He rolls my blues away
Bop shoe Bop Shoe Bop Woo!!
(Repeat 2x)

22. Jesus Loves Me
Jesus loves me this I know,
for the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong
Chorus:
Singing na na na na na na na nananana-
Heh!
Na na na na na na na na— Huh!
Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me, The Bible tells me so

Jesus loves me when I’m good
When I do the things I should
Jesus loves me when I’m bad
Though it makes Him very sad
(Chorus)

23. My God Is So Big
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There’s nothing my God cannot do
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There’s nothing my God cannot do
The mountains are His, the rivers are His
The stars are His handiwork too
My God is so big, so strong and so mighty
There’s nothing my God cannot do, for you

24. No One That I Know
No one that I know walks like you,
Talks like you, or looks like you
No one that I know is like you
No one else does what you do

25. Sheep Song
I wanna be a sheep baa baa,
I wanna be a sheep baa baa
Cuz Jesus loves sheep
I wanna be a sheep baa baa
I don’t wanna be a goat nope nope
I don’t wanna be a goat nope nope
Cuz there ain’t no hope for goats
I don’t wanna be a goat nope nope

26. Satan Didn’t Like It
Satan didn’t like it when we Came outta the wilderness
Came outta the wilderness
Satan didn’t like it when we Came outta the wilderness
Walkin’ with the Lord, Walkin’ with the Lord
Walkin’ with the Lord
Swimmin’ with the Lord…
Dancin’ with the Lord…

27. Shake a Friend’s Hand
Shake a friend’s hand,
Shake the hand next to you
Shake a friend’s hand and sing along
Shake a friend’s hand,
Shake the hand next to you
Shake a friend’s hand and sing,
Sing a ha-la-la-la-la-la-leluah,
Ha-la-la-la-la-levah (repeat)

Scratch a friend’s back, ...
Hug a friend’s neck...

28. Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
Swing low, sweet chariot
Comin’ fo’ to carry me home
Swing low, sweet chariot
Comin’ fo’ to carry me home

29. On a Day Like This
On a day like this (clap, clap)
On a day like this (clap, clap)
On a day like this (clap, clap) Ohhhhhhhhh
I need the Lord to help me
On a day like this (stomp, stomp, clap, clap)
On a day like this (stomp, stomp, clap, clap)
On a day like this (stomp, clap, clap)
Ohhhhhhhh
I need the Lord to help me

On a day like this (toot, toot, stomp, stomp, clap, clap)...
On a day like this (pat, pat, toot, toot, stomp, stomp, clap, clap)...
On a day like this (bounce, bounce, pat, pat, toot, toot, stomp, stomp, clap, clap)...

30. The Fruit of the Spirit
The fruit of the Spirit’s not a banana
The fruit of the Spirit’s not a banana
If you wanna be a banana
You might as well hear it
You can’t be a fruit of the Spirit
Cuz the fruit is love, joy, peace and patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control
The fruit of the Spirit’s not a coconut...
The fruit of the Spirit’s not a lemon...

31. This is the Day
This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made
I will rejoice, I will rejoice
And be glad in it, And be glad in it
This is the day that the Lord has made
I will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made

32. This Little Light of Mine
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine
Hide it under a bush, oh no!
I’m gonna let it shine
Hide it under a bush, oh no!
I’m gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine
Won’t let satan blow it out,
I’m gonna let it shine

33. Walk, Walk, Walk, Walk in the Light
It’s a great day to praise the Lord.
It’s a great day to praise the Lord.
Walking in the Light of Love.
Walk, walk, walk, walk in the light (Hey!)
Walk, walk, walk, walk in the light (Hey!)
Walk, walk, walk, walk in the light (Hey!)
Walking in the Light of Love.
It’s a great day to hug a neck...
It’s a great day to say “Amen!”...

34. What a Mighty God We Serve
What a mighty God we serve
What a mighty God we serve
Angels bow before Him
Heaven and earth adore Him.
What a mighty God we serve.

35. Who’s the King of the Jungle?
Who’s the king of the jungle? ooo ooo
Who’s the king of the sea?
wiggle wiggle wiggle
Who’s the king of the universe,
and who’s the king of me?

36. With Jesus in your Boat
With Jesus in your boat,
you can smile through the storm
Smile through the storm, smile through the storm
With Jesus in your boat,
you can smile through the storm
When you’re sailing home
Sailing, sailing home, sailing, sailing home
With Jesus in your boat, you can smile through the storm when you’re sailing home
Memory Verse Teacher

♦ Pray that they will learn the verse of the week, so they can carry a piece of the Bible with them always.

♦ The children will have two opportunities to hear the memory verse each day: once in the opening time in a large group and once after the story time in a small group. You will be responsible for leading the memory verse activity in the large group.

♦ Read through the suggested activities ahead of time. Some require additional planning and/or materials. Make sure you have what you need.

♦ Make sure everyone on your team knows the activities you plan to use. Help the other small group leaders decide which memory verse activities they will do each day.

♦ Do more than just lead the activities as they are described in the packet. Spend time explaining the meaning of the verse and how it applies to life. Help the children understand what the memory verse means.

♦ The following page contains suggested memory verse activities that you can choose from. Remember that you need to provide whatever materials you need for the memory verse activities.

♦ The verse of the week is:

Zephaniah 3:17a—The LORD your God is with you; He is mighty to save.

Sofonías 3:17a—El SEÑOR tu Dios está en medio de ti; él salvará. (Spanish)
Memory Verse Teacher (continued)

- **Teams:** Divide the kids into two teams. Let one side say the first part of the verse and let the others complete it. See how loud and soft and fast and slow each side can be. (Remember you can be creative in your team divisions: Boys v. Girls, Sandals v. Tennis Shoes, Eye or Hair Colors, kids wearing shorts v. kids wearing jeans...etc.) Compliment both teams on a job well done.

- **Memory Verse Challenge:** Make signs using construction paper with one or two words of the verse on each. Have several workers or children stand at the front and hold the signs so that everyone can see the words. Lead the children in saying the verse together a few times. Then, one at a time, have the sign holders hide their sign, and say the verse together again. Repeat this until all the signs are hidden and say the verse one more time.

- **Hand Signs:** Assign a hand motion for each word of the verse. Teach the children the hand signs and the words at the same time. Then say the words while the children only do the hand motions. And then do the hand motions while the children say the words.

- **Volley Verse:** Sit or stand in a circle. Take a soft ball or balloon and pass it around in a circle, each person saying one word of the verse as they hold the ball and pass it on. Go fast and slow, repeating the whole verse each time. When the kids feel comfortable saying the verse, volley the ball from person to person across the circle, letting each person say one word as they pass the ball.

- **Verse Pop:** Gather several small strips of paper and write one or two words of the verse on each strip. Put each paper inside a balloon and inflate the balloon. Let the children who are sitting the most quietly pop the balloon handed to them, and say the word they find inside. Have all the children repeat the word and continue until all the balloons are popped. Have a copy of the entire verse ready so that, in the end, the children can see the whole verse on one page. Repeat the verse several times with all the children. (It is a good idea to write numbers on the balloons so you can hand them to the children in the correct order. Also, be aware of smaller children who might be afraid of the popping noise.)

- **Verse Puzzle:** Write the verse on a piece of paper and cut the paper into 6-10 pieces. Let the children put the puzzle together as a team. Make sure everyone gets a chance to help. When it is finished, say the verse altogether. Put the puzzle together again. See how fast the children can finish the puzzle and say the verse.

- **Verse Sticks:** Write phrases of the verse on several craft sticks. Work together to put the sticks in the correct order.

- **Verse Chain:** Gather several small strips of paper and write one or two words of the verse on each strip. Working together in your small group, tape the links together in circles to make a paper chain. When you finish, say the verse all together.
Puppets have a power to draw people. Obviously a simple puppet show holds the most charm for young children. You will be amazed, however, how many parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles will come to watch puppets just because they are curious. This gives you a great opportunity to connect with them and potentially share the gospel. So don’t be afraid to try using them, even if you never have before. Here are some tips on how to easily incorporate puppets into your Rainbow Express program:

**SONG TIME**—Have the puppets sing along with the songs. This is fun for young children.

**MEMORY VERSE**—Have the puppets help teach the memory verse. We have found it to be especially helpful to have the children teach the memory verse to the puppets. Let the puppets “play dumb” so that it takes them several tries to learn it.

**GATHERING**—Have the puppets going while you are out knocking on doors and taking attendance. You will find the puppet show attracts plenty of curiosity.

**CLOSING TIME**—Have the puppets ask the review questions in the final large group time. Alternatively, you could have the puppets give funny answers to the review questions asked and let the children help correct them.

**PUPPET CONCERTS**—One of the simplest and surprisingly effective ways to use puppets is to let them give a one or two song “concert” each day during your Rainbow Express program. We have had great response with upbeat Christian music, especially if there is an easy chorus the kids can catch on to and sing along with.

**PREPARATION TIP:** If you do not have a puppet stage you can easily make one out of a large cardboard box (at Mission Arlington we use refrigerator boxes or washer/dryer boxes). Just cut and unfold the box and then decorate the front with butcher paper, spray paint, or any other way that you would like.

**A NOTE ON PUPPET MUSIC**—It is very important to remember that some songs that might be youth group favorites may be more likely to drive away than attract some parents. Keep in mind that the goal is to find opportunities to interact with all age groups, not just children and teenagers. If you would like to purchase puppet music instead of using what you already have, consider a series called RPM-Righteous Pop Music. You can order from them online from the company that produces them at onewaystreet.com.
**Attendance Taker**

- Pray for the children that will attend your Rainbow Express and for the Bible Study leaders that will follow-up with the children.
- The multi-housing communities where you will hold Rainbow Express are places with ongoing Mission Arlington Bible Studies, After School Programs, and other activities. The information you gather will be a valuable resource for the Mission Arlington teams doing follow-up after you are gone.
- **THIS IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT JOB!** We need to know about every child, teenager, and parent you meet (and where they live) so that we can get them involved in weekly Bible study. Also, if a child accepts Christ as their Savior or needs special attention, you will mark this on the attendance sheet so the appropriate follow-up takes place.
- As children arrive for each day of Rainbow Express, ask for their name (first and last), age, apartment number, and building number (if applicable). *Please do not allow children to write on the attendance sheet.* Please neatly write down the information they give you.
- Be sure you have the attendance sheets before you depart for the site each day. **Make sure you turn in these sheets after Rainbow Express each day.** Mission Arlington will provide the blank sheets.

---

**dude, great day today.** We had one parent and two kids who accepted Christ, a teenager looking for a church, and a whole family that need Bibles in Spanish.

**Awesome,** I’ll get those names to that neighborhoods’ missionary tonight so they can start following up right away.

---

**don’t be that group**

We take discipleship seriously at Mission Arlington. We know you do too. Help us by making sure we get good reports from you each day so we can follow up with all the people you make contact with.

---

**Yeah.** We actually lost our attendance sheet. I remembered about half of the names and wrote them on this napkin. Some of their apartment numbers are under the ketchup spot. There’s also one guy who wants to get baptized. He doesn’t usually wear socks, so he should be easy to find again . . .
Large Group Leader

- Pray for the children you will be teaching. Pray that this week the word of God will change their lives.

- It is your responsibility to help the program flow from one activity into the next activity while in a large group.

- At the beginning of each day, lead a brief introduction to help transition into the small group times. During the opening time, ask the kids questions about what they learned the day before. See if any of them know the memory verse.

- In each day’s introduction you will want to help the children learn to love God’s words. You want them to have a heart like Peter in John 6:68-69 when he said: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

- Keep the kids involved and interested in everything you do.

- Always have your Bible with you while you are leading the large group. Help the children understand how much you love your Bible.

- It will not be your job to tell each day’s Bible story. That will happen in the small groups.
Games Leader

- Be prepared to play some games before Rainbow Express begins as a way to gather and meet children. Play again afterwards to allow more interaction time with those who have come.
- Kids are more likely to listen to and interact with people they know care about them. Playing games is one way to build relationships with the kids. Pray that God will use the game time to build relationships between your team members and the children.
- Find ways to incorporate the concepts of the memory verse and lessons for each day into games you are playing.
- There is a list of games on the next page. You are not limited to the games on the list. Decide which games you are going to play each day. Involve everyone. Have some games prepared to play with older children and other games prepared to play with younger children.
- The apartment managers in the places you will be serving have asked Mission Arlington not to use balls, Frisbees, or anything else that could potentially break windows in the apartment communities. Bring soft, Nerf® type balls and toys that cannot cause any damage.
Games Leader (continued): SUGGESTED GAMES

- **Big, Bad Wolf**: Have the children stand in a line at one end of the game area. One leader or child is the “Big, Bad Wolf” and will stand at the other end of the area with her back to the children. In unison, the children shout, “What time is it Mr. Wolf?” The wolf answers with an hour, “4 o’clock”, for example. The children take that number of steps forward. If the wolf said “4 o’clock,” the children would take 4 steps toward the wolf. When the wolf thinks the children are close enough to her, she answers their question with, “It’s eating time!” Then she chases them back to their starting line. Anyone she tags joins her as a wolf. The game ends when all but one participant has been tagged.

- **Overall Understanding**: Players are divided into two teams. Teams line up in parallel rows with players standing behind one another. The first player on each team is given a beach ball, or balloon. When the leader says, “Go,” the first player on each line passes the ball backward over her head to the second player. The second player passes the ball under his legs to the next person in line, and so forth. The ball continues to be passed backward down the line, alternately over and under, until it reaches the last player. The last player, receiving the ball, runs to the front of his or her line and begins to pass the ball back again. This continues until every player on the line has a chance to be at the beginning. The team whose first player gets to the front of the line again is the winner.

- **Parachute**: You will have a tarp with you to use for the children to sit on each day. The tarp can double as a “parachute”. Have the kids stand on all sides of the tarp and hold it at waist level. Each side of the tarp is a team, making four teams. Put a beach ball on the tarp. Have the kids shake the tarp. They should try to shake the tarp so that the beach ball falls off another team’s side. Whenever the beach ball falls off the tarp, the team on that side gets a point. The team that has the fewest points at the end of the game wins.

- **Sharks and Minnows**: You will need a good size running area for this game. Have the children line up along one side of the area. They are the “minnows”. Have the leader stand in the middle of the area. The leader is the shark. When the shark yells “Go!” the minnows run to the other end of the area. The shark runs around and tags as many minnows as possible before they reach the other end of the field. When a minnow is tagged, he or she must freeze wherever tagged. When all of the untagged minnows reach the end of the area, the shark yells, “Go!” again. This time the shark and the frozen minnows may tag the runners. The game continues until there is only one minnow left. That minnow is the winner and begins the next game as the shark.

- **Everybody’s It Tag**: There are two rules: (1) everybody is it, and (2) when a player is tagged, he or she is frozen. Have everyone stand in a circle. Then the leader shouts “Everybody’s it!” and the game starts (and quickly ends).

- **Hospital Tag**: The first time a player is tagged, she puts her hand on the part of herself that was tagged. The second time she is tagged, she must put her other hand on that area. The third time, because she is out of hands, she must sit down.

- **Trust Walk**: Chose a landmark in your area to be the “goal” of this game. A mailbox or tree will probably be readily available for this purpose. Blindfold one player and choose another player to be the “guide.” Have the rest of the children scatter themselves between the blindfolded person and the goal. The guide leads the blindfolded person through all the people to the goal while the children in the way will call out other directions. The blindfolded player must listen carefully to the guides instructions. Let the children take turns being blindfolded and being the guide.

- **Circle Spot Rush**: All players stand in a circle, arms’ length apart, facing inward. In the center of the circle are small markers (paper plates, pieces of construction paper, etc.). The number of markers is always one less than the number of players. The leader of the game stands just outside the circle and calls out various types of movement: run, skip, hop, etc. The players move clockwise around the circle in the way directed by the leader. The game leader can also call out stop (all players freeze wherever they are) or about face (players continue to move in the same manner but reverse directions). When the game leader yells rush all players run to the center of the circle and try to stand on one of the markers. Whichever player does not stand on a marker is eliminated. One marker is removed and play continues. The object of the game is to be the last player remaining.

- **Animal Relay**: Each small group will be a team. Teams stand in single file lines, facing a finish line about fifty feet away. The first player runs across the finish line, runs back, tags the next player, and goes to the end of the line. The relay continues until each player has run twice. While they run the game leader calls out various animals. All players must run like that animal until the next one is called. The first team to have all their players finish twice wins.

- **Elbow Tag**: Assign all players a partner. Spread pairs out evenly across the playing area. Have the pairs link arms. Choose one pair to start out as the chaser “It”, and the chasee. Just like regular tag, It tries to tag the chasee. If the chasee is tagged, he or she in turn becomes it and the chase reverses. The chasee’s goal is to link with another player. When the chasee links arms with one side of a pair, the other player must unlink, becoming the chasee.
Youth Leader

Teenagers will often gather around the periphery of your Rainbow Express. Choose at least one person (if possible one male and one female) to be ready to work with any youth.

- **PRAY!** Youth have always been a part of Rainbow Express, because groups like yours have always worked at making friends with the older students that hang out around your activities. However, we have really felt led to make a concentrated effort to expand the scope of Rainbow Express to include youth. Ask God to use the Rainbow Express that you lead exactly as He would desire.

- **Be sensitive to the youth.** Some may enjoy participating in parts of the regular Rainbow Express program, especially if they have younger siblings that are attending or if they are involved in helping in some way. Others will feel more comfortable staying completely separated from the children for the entire time.

- **Be flexible.** Every apartment community is different and every teenager is different. You might have no teenagers, you may have one, and there might be a dozen. Be prayerfully ready for whatever happens.

- **Be sure to report any youth that attend on the Rainbow Express attendance sheet so that the Mission Arlington missionaries can effectively follow up.**

There is no sure-fire method for working with youth, but here is one possible suggested schedule for a youth Rainbow Express:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>While the children are:</th>
<th>The youth leaders are:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in opening large group: singing, puppets, memory verse, etc.</td>
<td>meeting any teenagers, going with them to invite their friends, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in small groups: story, crafts</td>
<td>having the youth help to pass out craft supplies to children’s small groups, then gathering in their own location. Lead a Bible Study based on the children’s Bible Story for the day. Help the youth learn the memory verse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in games time</td>
<td>having their own youth recreation time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Continued on next page*
Youth Leader

TIPS ABOUT WORKING WITH INNER-CITY YOUTH FROM A MISSION ARLINGTON MISSIONARY

As you are gathering the younger children for Rainbow Express, inevitably you will see older youth who seemingly couldn’t care less about hanging around with the little kids. Some of these youth will, however, hang out around the periphery of your Rainbow Express acting, of course, like they’re not interested. But don’t be fooled. If they’re hanging out, they are interested.

- **Introduce yourself:** Don’t wait for the youth to walk up to you—it won’t happen. You (2 or 3 of you) should walk up to them, stick out your hand to shake theirs & introduce yourself. If you’re meeting guys, invite them to throw the football, play soccer, or even wall-ball (at an appropriate place). Try to do this event somewhat removed from the younger kids because they may get distracted. If you’re meeting girls who aren’t interested in football, soccer, or wall-ball, just be prepared to sit with them and get to know them.

- **Engage them:** Maybe they can help you unload, carry boxes, pick up trash, help translate (lots of Spanish speaking kids will be attending Rainbow Express), play with the younger kids after Rainbow Express is over, etc. During this time, you will continue to get to know them.

- **Develop a Relationship:** Remember that in Jesus’ ministry, he met physical & emotional needs a lot of time before he addressed a person’s spiritual needs. Don’t be judgmental even if their looks, language, or conversation startles you. Hopefully you will have four days with them, so get to know them and when the Spirit leads you, begin the conversation about a relationship with Christ. Don’t make assumptions about whether or not they are believers. You’ll come across both.

- **Make Them Feel Special:** You want them to know that you have planned this time for them. Come prepared with football, soccer ball, basketball, etc. Maybe bring an additional snack for them. Sit around with the youth & munch on chips or cookies while you get to know them. Bring a few Bibles (pick an easy to read translation like NIV) so as one reads they can all follow along. Keep the actual lesson time short—most of the time should be spent getting to know them & discussing the lesson.
2017 July - August
Rainbow Express Curriculum
Pre-Rainbow Express Gathering

You will begin each day by knocking on doors and then playing games to help attract children to your Rainbow Express.

Song Time/Puppets

When it is time to begin your activities, have all the children sit down in a large group. It would be helpful to bring a tarp for them to sit on. When the children are together and seated on the tarp, begin your song time.

The Song Leader will come to the front of the group to lead songs. One or two others may also want to come to the front to help show motions. Be sure to have several songs ready to sing and that everyone in the group knows the songs.

Each day at this time you will have a brief puppet show. There are several simple ways to do this. Suggestions on how to use puppets to help teach children are on page 37.

Testimony

This week you will be teaching about the uniqueness of Jesus. Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that we can be sure that Jesus Christ is our only Savior. Obviously, the decision to follow Christ is an incredibly personal decision. It is important that the children and youth who attend your Rainbow Express understand that a personal relationship with Christ is a very important reality for the members of your group. Every day during the opening time one or two members of your group can share a short version of their testimony in front of the large group. The goal is to let the children see how listening and obeying as God has spoken in your life has made a practical and meaningful difference. (For help on sharing in a way that will be age-appropriate and meaningful with children, each person who plans to give their testimony should read the sheet Tips on Preparing Your Testimony in the training materials section of this packet.)

Memory Verse Activity

When the Large Group Leader finishes his opening time, the Memory Verse Teacher will come to the front to lead the memory verse activity. The large group memory verse activity for day one is “Fast and Slow”. Have your poster of the
memory verse available. Read through the verse all together several times to practice. Practice saying the memory verse faster and faster. Try saying it slower and slower. Say it in “slow motion”, using exaggerated hand motions and deep slow motion voices.

Introduction of Today’s Story—Building the Foundation

When the Memory Verse Teacher is finished, the Large Group Leader will return to the front to provide a brief introduction to the day’s theme and story. Each day you will re-introduce the concept that the Bible tells us the truth about God’s love and the Savior He sent for us. The stories for the whole week are intended to show that we can be confident in Jesus as our Savior. Help the children understand that God wants desperately for all people to know Him and accept Christ as their Savior. When you have finished this introduction, divide the children into small groups to hear the Bible story. Remember, this is just an introduction to today’s theme. It is important to keep this time brief. You can use the text below as a guide.

I hope you all know that God loves you. He made you special, exactly like you are, because He loves you. God wants you to know how much He loves you and to love Him in return.

God loves us, and He always has. He loves people all over the world in all kinds of places. A long, long time ago there was a city called Nineveh. God loved the people that lived in Nineveh just like He loves us, but Nineveh was a pretty scary place. The people there did not love God. They did things that God did not like. They were mean and unhappy. This made God sad. God wanted the people of Nineveh to know Him and to know about Him. He did not want them to do bad things that would make Him sad.

There was a man named Jonah that believed in God. God asked Jonah to go to Nineveh to tell the people that God loved them. God wanted Jonah to tell the people of Nineveh that they could love God too. Jonah did not want to do it. He knew that the people of Nineveh did bad things. He knew that the people in Nineveh were not like him. He had heard lots of bad things about Nineveh. He did not want to go.

Do you think that Jonah cared about the people in Nineveh like God did? Jonah did not understand that God loves everybody. It does not matter what they look like or where they are from. Jonah tried to run away from the mission God gave him. Jonah got in a boat and tried to sail as far away from Nineveh as he could go. But God is powerful and always get His way. God had decided that He wanted the people of Nineveh to hear His message and no human being could stop God’s love. God sent a huge fish. The enormous fish swallowed Jonah. Jonah spent three days in the belly of the fish until God told the fish spit Jonah back out on the dry land on the way back to Nineveh. This time, Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh with the message. The whole city listened to Jonah’s message and changed their hearts to believe God.

God loves His people, and nothing can stop Him from saving them. That is why Jesus came to Earth. Jonah may not have wanted to share God’s message, but Jesus came gladly to show us who God is. Jesus loves us all the time, every day. Even when we do things that He does not like, Jesus still loves us. He wants to help us to love Him more and more. Jesus is the only person that will always love us. He loves us perfectly, and He’s the only one.

Small Group Story Time

When the Large Group Time is over, divide the children into small groups for story time. The text provided here is to serve as a guide for you while you tell the story. Read it through several times and be able to tell it from memory. It is not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. Your goal is to be able to relate the story to a level children will understand. Use the wording included here as suggestions to help you make these concepts understood.
Today's Story:

While Jesus was here on Earth, He spent a lot of time traveling. He wanted everyone to know that He loves them, so He went to lots of different places. Everywhere He went He told people that He loves them.

There was a place called Samaria very close to where Jesus lived. Most of Jesus’ friends never went to Samaria. They did not like the people that lived in Samaria. They thought the people that lived in Samaria were bad. They did not want to hang around them. Jesus did not hate the people that lived in Samaria like some people did. Jesus loves people from Samaria just like He loves everybody else.

You remember that we talked about Jonah. Jonah would not go to Nineveh because he thought the people there were different and bad. Lots of people that lived near Jesus had that same bad attitude about Samaria. They would never go there.

Jesus was different. He did not mind going to Samaria. In fact, He liked it, because He loved those people so much. One day Jesus was walking through Samaria while His friends were gone buying some food. He was near a little town. When it was about time to eat lunch, He sat down to rest by a well outside the town. A well is a deep hole in the ground filled with water. People used to go to wells to get water to drink or to cook with.

While Jesus was sitting there a woman from Samaria came up with a big bucket to get some water. Jesus knew that most people did not come to the well near the middle of the day. Most people came in the morning before it got too hot. This woman came to the well at lunch time so that she would be alone. Jesus knew that this woman did not have any friends. The other people in Samaria did not like her. They thought that she was not a nice lady.

The woman saw Jesus sitting by the well. She was surprised. She knew that people from where Jesus lived did not come to the towns in Samaria very much. She was not sure she wanted to talk to Jesus. She did not like to be around other people, because they were mean to her. She did not know who Jesus was. She thought that He would be mean to her like the other people she knew.

Jesus smiled at the woman. He spoke to her kindly. He asked her if she would give Him a drink of water. The woman was very surprised. People never spoke to her nicely. She was not used to somebody like Jesus being so kind.

Jesus talked to the woman for a long time. He told her that God had a special present for her. He told her that the present was His love. Jesus told the woman that His love was even better than water. He explained to her that no matter how much water she got one day, she would always have to come back for more. Jesus told her that His love for us is different. He will never run out of love. We can never use it all up. Jesus has enough love to love all of us forever.

The woman was very excited to know that Jesus loved her, but she was still worried. She thought maybe He wouldn’t love her anymore if He knew about all the bad things that she had done. Jesus told her not to worry. He already knew about all the bad things she had done, and He still loved her. In fact, He loved her so much that He wanted to help her not do those things any more.

The woman was very excited. Now she knew that Jesus loved her, even though she had done some things that were bad. She ran all the way back to town. She told everybody there that Jesus loved them too. The whole town came to see Jesus. They wanted to hear about how much He loved all of them. Jesus stayed in the town for two days, telling everybody about His love for them.
Jesus cared about the people in Samaria, even though some of His friends did not like them. He cared about the woman at the well, even though people thought she was not nice. Jesus was very different than some people. Some people only like people that are like them. Jesus loves every single person in the whole world. It does not matter who they are, where they live, or what they look like. Jesus wants us to know how much He loves us.

Jesus loves you very much. He wants you to know it. He wants you to love Him too. Jesus wants you to ask Him to be a part of your life. He wants you to know that no matter who you are, He wants to spend every single day with you. He wants to clean out the bad things in you and help you know how to live a life that will make God and you happy. If you've never asked Jesus to come live in you and clean you out, you can do that today. He promises that He will come into your life and stay there.

_Each day you will close the story time with an invitation to accept Jesus._ Say something like this: God wants everybody to follow Him. The problem is that sometimes we do bad things that the Bible calls sin. A sin is anything that we do that God does not want us to do. God still loves us, even though we sin. That’s why Jesus came. Jesus died on the cross to be punished for our sins. Then on the third day He came back to life. Now, for anybody who asks, Jesus will take away our sins and become a part of our lives. He will help us to follow Him. The Bible says that if we believe Jesus in our hearts and follow Him, He will save us from our sin and help us to follow God. Then one day we will be with Him forever. Anybody that wants to choose to follow Jesus can do that today. We would love to help you know how.

**Prayer Time**

Take this time after the story to pray with the children in your small group. Ask them for things they would like to pray about. Tell God how awesome He is. Ask Him to help you and the children in your small group to listen to God and obey Him. Pray that the children in your group will get to know God and feel the love He has for them.

**Craft**

While still in your small groups, lead the children in making the craft or filling out the activities packet for the day. The craft time is not only a way to reinforce the lesson, but it also allows time to get to know the children in your small group. During this time, ask them questions about their families, friends, and school. Invest in their lives. Crafts and supplies will be provided while you are at Mission Arlington.

**Memory Verse Activity**

Each day the small group time will include a Memory Verse Activity. The Memory Verse time is one of the most important activities of the day. We want these children to remember God’s word and why it is important to them. A list of potential activities is included in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this packet. Use a different idea from that list each day to help the children learn the words of the verse and to explain why it applies to their lives. (Some require extra preparation, so be sure to review the list in advance.) The memory verse for this week is:

_Zephaniah 3:17a—The LORD your God is with you; He is mighty to save._

_Sofonías 3:17a—El SEÑOR tu Dios está en medio de ti; él salvará._ (Spanish)

**Wrap Up**
Each day you will end your Rainbow Express in a second large group session. Have all the children return to the tarp where you started. Sometimes the movement from small groups to large group becomes distracting, especially to younger children. If you find your children becoming noisy as you return to your large group, consider singing a few songs to help everybody focus again.

The last thing you will do before games and snacks is to review the memory verse and the day’s lesson. Have the large group leader give a brief re-telling of the day’s story. As you tell the story, frequently pause to let the children answer questions and fill in the blanks about the lesson. When you finish reviewing the story, have everybody say the memory verse together one last time. After reviewing the memory verse, pray before dismissing to game time and snacks.

**Game Time/Snacks**

When you are finished, pray together and be ready to play games until the end of the Rainbow Express program. After the game time, pass out snacks, clean up the area, and walk everyone home. Return to Mission Arlington to turn in your materials and attendance sheet.
Day Two

- **Large Group**
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Memory Verse: Loud and Soft

- **Small Group**
  - Story: Joseph & The Woman in Trouble
  - Theme: Jesus Forgives Us When Others Won’t

- **Large Group**
  - Story review questions

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The Song Leader will come to the front of the group to lead songs. One or two others may also want to come to the front to help show motions. Be sure to have several songs ready to sing and that everyone in the group knows the songs.

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Memory Verse Activity

When the Large Group Leader finishes his opening time, the Memory Verse Teacher will come to the front to lead the memory verse activity. The large group memory verse activity for day two is “Loud and Soft”. Have your poster of the memory verse available. Read through the verse all together several times to practice. Practice saying the
Day Two

memory verse together. Slowly begin to increase the volume. Divide the children into two or more teams. Have them try saying the verse together as a team. See who can say it loud and who can say it soft. Try playing Telephone by having all the children sit in a circle. Have the verse travel around the circle by having each child whisper the next word in the verse to their neighbor.

Introduction of Today’s Story—Building the Foundation

*When the Memory Verse Teacher is finished, the Large Group Leader will return to the front to provide a brief introduction to the day’s theme and story. Each day you will re-introduce the concept that the Bible tells us the truth about God’s love and the Savior He sent for us. Take time to sum up the previous day’s stories and themes. Be sure each day to introduce the theme for the day’s story. The stories for the whole week are intended to show that we can be confident in Jesus as our Savior. Help the children understand that God wants desperately for all people to know Him and accept Christ as their Savior. When you have finished this introduction, divide the children into small groups to hear the Bible story. Remember, this is just an introduction to today’s theme. It is important to keep this time brief. You can use the text below as a guide.*

It’s really good to see all of you back here today. I’m happy you decided to come hang out with us again. Can any of you tell me what we talked about yesterday? First we talked about a man named Jonah. God asked Jonah to go to a city called Nineveh and tell the people there that God loved them. Jonah did not want to go. He did not like the people in Nineveh because he thought they were different and mean. Then we learned that Jesus is different. He loves every single one of us, no matter who we are.

How many of you know what the word *forgive* means? When somebody does something bad to us, it usually makes us angry or sad. Forgiving them means saying that we are going to erase that bad thing. We won’t try to do anything bad back to them.

Today I want to tell you about a man named Joseph. Joseph lived a very, very long time ago. He had a really big family that was not very good at forgiving each other. Joseph had eleven brothers. God gave Joseph a dream telling him that one day Joseph would be a very powerful ruler and would be in charge of all his brothers. The brothers did not like that at all. They got really angry at Joseph.

One day Joseph went to visit his brothers. They were out in the country, taking care of some of their father’s animals. When Joseph’s brothers found out that Joseph was coming to visit them, they were very upset. They were still mad at Joseph. They had never forgiven him for what they thought was his bad attitude. When Joseph got there, they grabbed him. They beat him up. They took the special new clothes their dad had given to Joseph. They threw him in a hole in the ground. They were so mad that they sent Joseph to a faraway country. They lied to their dad and told him that they thought he was dead.

Years later, Joseph’s brothers felt very badly about what they had done. They did something bad to him, which only made it worse in their family. They did not get to see Joseph again for a very long time. When they finally saw Joseph again, he forgave them. He told them that God had a good plan for him even when his brothers were unkind.

Sometimes we have a hard time forgiving people when they do things to us we don’t like. We like to stay angry. I’m happy that Jesus doesn’t treat us like that. Jesus always wants to forgive us. Today we’re going to divide into our small groups and learn about a time that Jesus showed us how much He likes to forgive us.

Small Group Story Time

*When the Large Group Time is over, divide the children into small groups for story time. The text provided here is to serve as a guide for you while you tell the story. Read it through several times and be able to tell it from memory. It is not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. Your goal is to be able to relate the story to a level children will understand. Use the wording included here as suggestions to help you make these concepts understood.*
Today's Story:

In large group we talked about Joseph’s brothers. We learned that they did not forgive Joseph and so something really bad happened. Sometimes it is hard to forgive people that do bad things to us.

Every time we do something Jesus doesn’t like, that’s just like doing something bad to Him. Every time we tell a lie, or cheat on a test, or do something mean to somebody, we are doing something bad to Jesus. It’s a good thing Jesus likes to forgive. Jesus wants to forgive us for the bad things we do, because He loves us so much.

One day Jesus was with some of His friends at a great big church called the Temple. There were lots of people at the Temple. They came there to learn about God. Jesus told the people at the Temple that He loves us all very much. Jesus said that He would always love us.

There was another group of people at the Temple that day. They were called the Pharisees. The Pharisees were not very forgiving people. The Pharisees did a lot of good things like read the Bible and go to church, but they thought those things made them better than anybody else. The Pharisees always thought that they were the very best people. They did not like Jesus very much. They did not think that He should hang around with people that did bad things. They did not understand that Jesus loved and forgave those people.

The Pharisees were always looking for ways to show off. Many times they would find people that they did not think were as good as they were. They would tell everybody about how much better the Pharisees were than those people who did bad things.

While Jesus was at the Temple, the Pharisees found a woman that had been caught doing something bad. The woman was very afraid. She knew that the thing she had done was very bad. The law said that somebody that did what she did could be punished.

The Pharisees wanted to throw rocks at the woman because of the bad thing she had done. They thought that would be fair. The Pharisees brought the woman in front of Jesus and threw her on the ground in front of Him. They had rocks in their hands.

“This woman did something very bad,” the Pharisees said. “The law says that we can hurt her, so we want to throw rocks at her. What do you think?” The Pharisees wanted to know if Jesus would even love this woman that had done something so bad.

Jesus looked at the woman. He looked at the Pharisees. It made Him very sad. He loved that woman. He knew that she had been bad, but He loved her so much that He wanted to forgive her.

Jesus spoke to the Pharisees. “You think that we should throw rocks at this woman because she did something bad. Is it fair for you to want to hurt her because she did something bad? Haven’t you ever done bad things? Only somebody who has never ever done even one bad thing in their entire life should punish this woman.”

The Pharisees were very quiet. They felt very bad. Every one of the Pharisees had done bad things before, just like all of us have. Jesus was right. The Pharisees were no different than that woman or us, because we have all done bad things. One at a time, the Pharisees dropped their rocks and went away.

The woman was very surprised. She thought the Pharisees were going to hurt her, but they had all left. Jesus smiled at the woman. “Where are all the people that wanted to hurt you? Didn’t any of them decide to do something bad to you?”

The woman shook her head. None of the Pharisees were going to hurt her. “I won’t either,” Jesus told her. “Now go on, and don’t do that thing any more.” Jesus loved that woman just like He loves us. He forgave the bad thing she had done.

All the people were amazed. The woman had done something very bad, but Jesus forgave her. Jesus wants to
forgive us too. It doesn’t matter how bad the things are that we have done, Jesus wants to clean us up and take away those bad things. He wants to come into our lives and help us not to do them any more. The only thing we have to do if we want Jesus to forgive us is to ask Him. You can ask Him today if you want to.

Each day you will close the story time with an invitation to accept Jesus. Say something like this: God wants everybody to follow Him. The problem is that sometimes we do bad things that the Bible calls sin. A sin is anything that we do that God does not want us to do. God still loves us, even though we sin. That’s why Jesus came. Jesus died on the cross to be punished for our sins. Then on the third day He came back to life. Now, for anybody who asks, Jesus will take away our sins and become a part of our lives. He will help us to follow Him. The Bible says that if we believe Jesus in our hearts and follow Him, He will save us from our sin and help us to follow God. Then one day we will be with Him forever. Anybody that wants to choose to follow Jesus can do that today. We would love to help you know how.

Prayer Time

Take this time after the story to pray with the children in your small group. Ask them for things they would like to pray about. Tell God how awesome He is. Ask Him to help you and the children in your small group to listen to God and obey Him. Pray that the children in your group will get to know God and feel the love He has for them.

Craft

While still in your small groups, lead the children in making the craft or filling out the activities packet for the day. The craft time is not only a way to reinforce the lesson, but it also allows time to get to know the children in your small group. During this time, ask them questions about their families, friends, and school. Invest in their lives. Crafts and supplies will be provided while you are at Mission Arlington.

Memory Verse Activity

Each day the small group time will include a Memory Verse Activity. The Memory Verse time is one of the most important activities of the day. We want these children to remember God’s word and why it is important to them. A list of potential activities is included in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this packet. Use a different idea from that list each day to help the children learn the words of the verse and to explain why it applies to their lives. (Some require extra preparation, so be sure to review the list in advance.) The memory verse for this week is:

*Zephaniah 3:17a*—The LORD your God is with you; He is mighty to save.

Spanish: *Sofonías 3:17a*—El SEÑOR tu Dios está en medio de ti; él salvará.

Wrap Up

Each day you will end your Rainbow Express in a second large group session. Have all the children return to the tarp where you started. Sometimes the movement from small groups to large group becomes distracting, especially to younger children. If you find your children becoming noisy as you return to your large group, consider singing a few songs to help everybody focus again.

The last thing you will do before games and snacks is to review the memory verse and the day’s lesson. Have the large group leader give a brief re-telling of the day’s story. As you tell the story, frequently pause to let the children answer questions and fill in the blanks about the lesson. When you finish reviewing the story, have everybody say the memory verse together one last time. After reviewing the memory verse, pray before
Day Two

dismissing to game time and snacks.

**Game Time/Snacks**

When you are finished, pray together and be ready to play games until the end of the Rainbow Express program. After the game time, pass out snacks, clean up the area, and walk everyone home. Return to Mission Arlington to turn in your materials and attendance sheet.
Day Three

- **Large Group**
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Memory Verse: Teams
- **Small Group**
  - Story: Naaman & The Thief on the Cross
  - Theme: Jesus Saved Us When Nobody Else Could
- **Large Group**
  - Story review questions

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**Pre-Rainbow Express Gathering**

You will begin each day by knocking on doors and then playing games to help attract children to your Rainbow Express.

**Song Time/Puppets**

When it is time to begin your activities, have all the children sit down in a large group. It would be helpful to bring a tarp for them to sit on. When the children are together and seated on the tarp, begin your song time.

The Song Leader will come to the front of the group to lead songs. One or two others may also want to come to the front to help show motions. Be sure to have several songs ready to sing and that everyone in the group knows the songs.

During this time you will also have the puppets sing their song(s). Doing the puppet show in between songs can help keep the children's attention. You are provided with one song for each day. If the children are responding well and enjoying the puppet music, it is okay to perform more than one of the songs and repeat the songs from day to day.

**Testimony**

This week you will be teaching about the uniqueness of Jesus. Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that we can be sure that Jesus Christ is our only Savior. Obviously, the decision to follow Christ is an incredibly personal decision. It is important that the children and youth who attend your Rainbow Express understand that a personal relationship with Christ is a very important reality for the members of your group. Every day during the opening time one or two members of your group can share a short version of their testimony in front of the large group. The goal is to let the children see how listening and obeying as God has spoken in your life has made a practical and meaningful difference. *(For help on sharing in a way that will be age-appropriate and meaningful with children, each person who plans to give their testimony should read the sheet Tips on Preparing Your Testimony in the training materials section of this packet.)*

**Memory Verse Activity**

When the Large Group Leader finishes his opening time, the Memory Verse Teacher will come to the front to lead the
memory verse activity. The large group memory verse activity for day three is “Teams”. Have your poster of the memory verse available. Read through the verse all together several times to practice. Divide your children into teams. Have the teams compete saying the memory verse many different ways: loudest, softest, fastest, slowest, telephone style, English, Spanish, with hand motions, etc.

Introduction of Today’s Story—Building the Foundation

When the Memory Verse Teacher is finished, the Large Group Leader will return to the front to provide a brief introduction to the day’s theme and story. Each day you will re-introduce the concept that the Bible tells us the truth about God’s love and the Savior He sent for us. Take time to sum up the previous days’ stories and themes. Be sure each day to introduce the theme for the day’s story. The stories for the whole week are intended to show that we can be confident in Jesus as our Savior. Help the children understand that God wants desperately for all people to know Him and accept Christ as their Savior. When you have finished this introduction, divide the children into small groups to hear the Bible story. Remember, this is just an introduction to today’s theme. It is important to keep this time brief. You can use the text below as a guide.

A long time ago there was a man named Naaman. Naaman lived in a country very far from here. Naaman was very famous. He worked for the king as a leader in the army. Naaman was also very rich. He had a big house and many people that worked for him.

Naaman also had a big problem. Naaman had a disease called leprosy. It made him very sick. It made his skin get sores and turn white. It was a bad disease. Naaman did not want to have leprosy, but no doctors in his country knew how to help somebody with the disease.

Naaman went to visit the king of his country. “I do not want to have leprosy anymore,” he said. “I want somebody to make me better.” The king sent Naaman to a country called Israel. There was a man in Israel named Elisha who believed in God. Sometimes God let Elisha heal people who were sick. The king thought maybe Elisha could make Naaman better. Naaman went to visit Elisha. Naaman brought many gifts to give to Elisha. He brought fancy new clothes and money. He thought he would have to buy Elisha’s help. Naaman was in for a big surprise when he got to Elisha’s house. Elisha did not want Naaman’s money. He did not want Naaman’s clothes. He did not want any of the presents that Naaman had brought for him. “God will heal you for free,” Elisha told Naaman, “all you have to do is go to the river and wash yourself seven times in the water. Then you will be better.”

Naaman was surprised and a little upset. He thought Elisha would want all the nice things he had brought. Naaman did not understand that the presents of God do not cost money or clothes or toys or cars or anything else. God gives us His love and forgiveness for free. The only thing that He wants from us is that we love Him back and let Him be a part of our lives.

Today we’re going to learn about a man that was kind of like Naaman. He got a free gift from Jesus when he did not expect one.

Small Group Story Time

When the Large Group Time is over, divide the children into small groups for story time. The text provided here is to serve as a guide for you while you tell the story. Read it through several times and be able to tell it from memory. It is not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. Your goal is to be able to relate the story to a level children will understand. Use the wording included here as suggestions to help you make these concepts understood by elementary age children. Feel free to adapt these words to fit well with your own style.
Today’s Story:

The past two days we have talked a lot about Jesus. We have learned that Jesus loves us more than anybody else ever could. Yesterday we learned that He wants to forgive us, no matter what we have done. Today we’re going to talk about the very best thing that Jesus ever did for us.

It makes Jesus sad when we do things that we shouldn’t do. Those things get in the way of us being close to Jesus. He loves us with all the love in the world, but He can’t be around the bad stuff inside us. That’s why He wants to forgive us. He wants to get those bad things out of the way so that we can be with Him forever.

There is a big problem though. The bad things that we think and do and say get us in trouble. They get us punished. A punishment is something bad that happens to us when we do something bad, like if we get sent to the principal for talking in class, or when we get grounded if we fight with our friends. The bad things that we think, do, and say are called sins. Sin gets us a very big punishment. Our sin keeps us away from Jesus. It means that He can’t be with us like He wants to, and it stops us from spending forever with Him. It’s just like our sins get us grounded from being with Jesus, and that grounding lasts forever.

That made God so sad that He decided to do something about it. He decided to come here and take our punishment. Jesus grew up just like we do except that He never did anything bad. He went to school, had friends, and played outside, but He never did anything that He was not supposed to do. When He was a grown-up He started to travel around and tell people that He loves them. He told people that He wants to forgive them. Jesus told people that He had come to save them from their own sins.

Not everybody liked what Jesus was doing. Some people did not want Jesus to tell about His love. They did not want Him to say that He would save people. They arrested Jesus even though He had never done anything wrong. They took all His clothes. They pulled out His hair and His beard. They punched Him in the face. They hit Him and spit on Him. They yelled at Him and told lies about Him. They told Jesus that they were going to kill Him.

Jesus did not have to let them do all those horrible things to Him. Jesus is God. He could have left or stopped those bad men whenever He wanted. Instead He stayed there and let them beat Him up and scream at Him. He let them push sharp thorns into His head. He let them tear up His back with a weapon called a whip. Jesus let them do all those terrible things because He loves us so much. Jesus was taking our punishment. He was letting them do all these things to Him so that He could save us from the “grounding” we talked about. We said that our sins bring us big trouble, but Jesus let that trouble come to Him instead because of how much He loves us.

The people that arrested Jesus kept hurting Jesus all night long. In the morning they were ready to kill Him. They took a rough piece of wood full of splinters and put it on Jesus’ back. They made Him carry it up to the top of a tall hill. They put Jesus on a cross. A cross is two pieces of wood put together to look like a plus sign or the letter “t”. (Make a cross with your fingers.) They took long sharp nails and hammered them through Jesus’ wrists and feet. They nailed Jesus to the cross. It was terrible, but Jesus let it all happen to Him because He wanted to save us from the punishment our sins bring to us. That’s how much Jesus loves us.

There were two other people being killed on a cross that day. They were also hung on crosses, one to the left of Jesus and one to the right. They were very bad men who had done some very bad things. One of the bad men started to make fun of Jesus. “You said you wanted to save everybody,” he teased, “but you can’t even save yourself.”

The other man on a cross could not believe what he was hearing. He knew that he was a thief. He knew that He was being killed on a cross because he had done bad things. He knew that he deserved it. He could see that Jesus was different. Jesus was not being killed because of bad things He had done, because Jesus had never even done anything bad. Jesus was dying on the cross to save people like us. The thief spoke to the other man, the man who was making fun of Jesus. “Don’t say those things,” he said. “We are being punished for all the bad stuff
Day Three

we did. But Jesus didn’t do anything bad. He’s dying because He loves us. He’s dying because He wants to save us.” Then the thief turned to look at Jesus. “Jesus,” he asked, “Will you please remember me when you get to Heaven?” The thief wanted to be forgiven. He wanted Jesus to love Him. He wanted to go to Heaven with Jesus, even though he didn’t really deserve it.

Jesus looked at the thief. The thief had done lots of bad things. He had not been a good person. He had never done anything for Jesus before. But Jesus loved that man. Jesus was dying for that man just like He was dying for us. Jesus was letting Himself die on the cross so that He could take away sins just like the sins of the thief on the cross. He knew that the thief did not deserve to go to Heaven. That thief was a sinner, just like every one of us. Jesus loved him so much that He wanted to save Him as a free present. Jesus spoke to the man. “Today you will be in Heaven with me.” Jesus forgave the thief.

A little while later, Jesus died. The good news is that the story did not end there. Jesus did not stay dead. Three days later He came back to life. He beat death and sin. He visited all His friends. He told them that He had died and come back to life so that He could forgive us and save us. He had made a way to get rid of sin, because He loves us so much.

That thief on the cross was not a good man. He had not done anything to deserve Jesus’ love. The bad news is that neither have we. Jesus made us and loves us, but we still do things that He asks us not to do. The good news is that Jesus loves us with all the love in the universe. He loves us so much that He would do anything to forgive us and to save us. He even came here and died so that we could be with Him forever in Heaven. Jesus forgave the thief on the cross, just because He loves that thief. He wants to do the same thing for us too, because He loves us.

We’re going to make something that will help us remember how much Jesus loves us and how He wants to save us.

Each day you will close the story time with an invitation to accept Jesus. Say something like this: God wants everybody to follow Him. The problem is that sometimes we do bad things that the Bible calls sin. A sin is anything that we do that God does not want us to do. God still loves us, even though we sin. That’s why Jesus came. Jesus died on the cross to be punished for our sins. Then on the third day He came back to life. Now, for anybody who asks, Jesus will take away our sins and become a part of our lives. He will help us to follow Him. The Bible says that if we believe Jesus in our hearts and follow Him, He will save us from our sin and help us to follow God. Then one day we will be with Him forever. Anybody that wants to choose to follow Jesus can do that today. We would love to help you know how.

Prayer Time

Take this time after the story to pray with the children in your small group. Ask them for things they would like to pray about. Tell God how awesome He is. Ask Him to help you and the children in your small group to listen to God and obey Him. Pray that the children in your group will get to know God and feel the love He has for them.

Craft

While still in your small groups, lead the children in making the craft for the day. The craft time is not only a way to reinforce the lesson, but it also allows time to get to know the children in your small group. During this time, ask them questions about their families, friends, and school. Invest in their lives. For today’s craft, you will be making salvation bracelets.
Day Three

Salvation Bracelets

Supplies: For each child—one string or cord for bracelet, and five beads, one each of red, black, white, green, yellow.

For instructions on how to make today’s craft, see the following pages. Step by step instructions on which order to put the beads on the bracelet and bilingual explanations of the colors’ meanings are included. You will also find optional hand out pages to give the children to help them remember the meaning of the bracelet. During this craft you will be explaining God’s plan for salvation. It is very important that you approach it with sensitivity to children that may be ready to make decisions to accept Christ. Please spend time in practice and prayer so that you will be ready when the time comes to clearly explain what salvation means.

Memory Verse Activity

Each day the small group time will include a Memory Verse Activity. The Memory Verse time is one of the most important activities of the day. We want these children to remember God’s word and why it is important to them. A list of potential activities is included in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this packet. Use a different idea from that list each day to help the children learn the words of the verse and to explain why it applies to their lives. (Some require extra preparation, so be sure to review the list in advance.) The memory verse for this week is:

Zephaniah 3:17a—The LORD your God is with you; He is mighty to save.

Spanish: Sofonías 3:17a—El SEÑOR tu Dios está en medio de ti; él salvará.

Wrap Up

Each day you will end your Rainbow Express in a second large group session. Have all the children return to the tarp where you started. Sometimes the movement from small groups to large group becomes distracting, especially to younger children. If you find your children becoming noisy as you return to your large group, consider singing a few songs to help everybody focus again.

The last thing you will do before games and snacks is to review the memory verse and the day’s lesson. Have the large group leader give a brief re-telling of the day’s story. As you tell the story, frequently pause to let the children answer questions and fill in the blanks about the lesson. When you finish reviewing the story, have everybody say the memory verse together one last time. After reviewing the memory verse, pray before dismissing to game time and snacks.

Game Time/Snacks

When you are finished, pray together and be ready to play games until the end of the Rainbow Express program. After the game time, pass out snacks, clean up the area, and walk everyone home. Return to Mission Arlington to turn in your materials and attendance sheet.
Note—When explaining the meanings of the colors refer to the bead and the sin it represents as dark rather than black.

DARK- This reminds us of sin. Sin is anything we do that is not what God wants us to do. The Bible says that everyone has sinned.

**OSCURO**- Este representa el pecado. El pecado es cualquier cosa que hacemos que no complace a Dios. La Biblia nos dice que todos hemos pecado.

RED- This reminds us of Jesus’ blood. Jesus was God’s Son and He died on the cross to pay the punishment for our sins.

**ROJO**- Este representa la sangre de Jesús. Jesús es el Hijo de Dios y El murió en la cruz para pagar por las consecuencias de nuestros pecados.

WHITE- This reminds us of our new lives. The Bible says that after we have accepted Jesus, we are brand new. He cleans out the sin that was in us. Jesus is in our lives! He will never leave!

**BLANCO**- Este representa nueva vida. La Biblia dice que al aceptar a Jesús como nuestro Salvador, somos hechos nuevos. El limpia el pecado que estaba dentro de nosotros. ¡Esto es porque Jesús esta en nuestras vidas!

GREEN- This reminds us that we are to grow as a Christian. In order to grow in our relationship with God, we need to pray, read the Bible, and hang out with other Christians by coming to Bible Study.

**VERDE**- Este representa crecimiento como Cristiano. Para crecer necesitamos tener una relación con Dios. Esto es posible orando, leyendo la Biblia, y teniendo convivió con otros Cristianos por venir al Estudio Bíblico.

YELLOW- This reminds us of Heaven! The Bible says that every person who has trusted Jesus to be his or her Savior will spend forever in Heaven with Him.

**AMARILLO**- Este representa el cielo. La Biblia nos dice que cada persona que ha puesto su fe en Jesús como Salvador estará por toda la eternidad en el cielo a lado de El.
Sometimes I do bad things that make God sad.  
*A veces hago cosas malas que no le gustan a Dios.*

Jesus loves me, so He died on the cross to help me.  
*Jesús se murió en la cruz por mí porque me ama.*

Jesus can take away all the bad things I do.  
*Jesús puede quitar todas las cosas malas que hago.*

I can follow Jesus and learn to be more like Him.  
*Yo puedo seguir a Jesús y aprender ser más como Él.*

One day I will be with Jesus in Heaven.  
*Un día estaré en El Cielo con Jesús.*
... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ... Romans 3:23

Pues todos han pecado y están privados de la gloria de Dios. Romanos 3:23

But here is how God has shown His love for us: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Pero Dios demuestra su amor por nosotros en esto: en que cuando todavía éramos pecadores, Cristo murió por

When anyone lives in Christ, the new creation has come. The old is gone! The new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

Por lo tanto, si alguno está en Cristo, es una nueva creación. ¡Lo viejo ha pasado, ha llegado ya lo nuevo!

2 Corintios 5:17

You are children that God dearly loves. So follow His example. Ephesians 5:1

Por tanto, imiten a Dios, como hijos muy amados.

Efesios 5:1

My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. John 14:2-3

En el hogar de mi Padre hay muchas viviendas; si no fuera así, ya se lo habría dicho a ustedes. Voy a prepararles un lugar. Y si me voy y se lo preparo, vendré para llevármelos conmigo. Así ustedes estarán donde yo esté. Juan 14:2-3
Day Four

- **Large Group**
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Memory Verse: Next Word Relay

- **Small Group**
  - Story: The Hebrews & the Disciples
  - Theme: Jesus Helps Us When We Feel Alone

- **Large Group**
  - Story review questions

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**Pre-Rainbow Express Gathering**

You will begin each day by knocking on doors and then playing games to help attract children to your Rainbow Express.

**Song Time/Puppets**

When it is time to begin your activities, have all the children sit down in a large group. It would be helpful to bring a tarp for them to sit on. When the children are together and seated on the tarp, begin your song time.

The Song Leader will come to the front of the group to lead songs. One or two others may also want to come to the front to help show motions. Be sure to have several songs ready to sing and that everyone in the group knows the songs.

During this time you will also have the puppets sing their song(s). Doing the puppet show in between songs can help keep the children’s attention. You are provided with one song for each day. If the children are responding well and enjoying the puppet music, it is okay to perform more than one of the songs and repeat the songs from day to day.

**Testimony**

This week you will be teaching about the uniqueness of Jesus. Each day you will be sharing stories, songs, crafts, and other activities that help the children understand that we can be sure that Jesus Christ is our only Savior. Obviously, the decision to follow Christ is an incredibly personal decision. It is important that the children and youth who attend your Rainbow Express understand that a personal relationship with Christ is a very important reality for the members of your group. Every day during the opening time one or two members of your group can share a short version of their testimony in front of the large group. The goal is to let the children see how listening and obeying as God has spoken in your life has made a practical and meaningful difference. *(For help on sharing in a way that will be age-appropriate and meaningful with children, each person who plans to give their testimony should read the sheet Tips on Preparing Your Testimony in the training materials section of this packet.)*

**Memory Verse Activity**

When the Large Group Leader finishes his opening time, the Memory Verse Teacher will come to the front to lead the memory verse activity. The large group memory verse activity for day four is “Next Word Relay”. Have your poster of the memory verse available. Read through the verse all together several times to practice. Divide the children into two or more teams. Then, split each team in...
half. Have the two halves face each other in a single file line, about ten feet apart. Have the first person on the team say the first word of the verse. That player then runs across and tags the first player in the line facing them. The first player then runs to the back of that line. The second player then says the next word in the verse, then runs across to tag the player on the opposite line. Keep going until each team has said the whole verse. You may want to bring a stopwatch to time the children and see which team can do it the fastest.

**Introduction of Today’s Story—Building the Foundation**

*When the Memory Verse Teacher is finished, the Large Group Leader will return to the front to provide a brief introduction to the day’s theme and story.* Each day you will re-introduce the concept that the Bible tells us the truth about God’s love and the Savior He sent for us. *Take time to sum up the previous days’ stories and themes. Be sure each day to introduce the theme for the day’s story.* The stories for the whole week are intended to show that we can be confident in Jesus as our Savior. *Help the children understand that God wants desperately for all people to know Him and accept Christ as their Savior.* When you have finished this introduction, divide the children into small groups to hear the Bible story. Remember, this is just an introduction to today’s theme. *It is important to keep this time brief.* You can use the text below as a guide.

Yesterday we learned about the best thing that Jesus ever did for us. We learned that Jesus let Himself be killed on the cross so that He could make a way to save us. We said that Jesus did not stay dead, but that He came back to life for us. He did all of that so that He could save us.

That was the best gift that Jesus ever gave to us, but it wasn’t the last. Jesus did not save us and then leave us. He wants to be a part of our life every single day. He wants us to count on Him to help us out every time we need help.

A long time ago there was a group of people that had a very hard time learning to trust God to take care of them. They were called the Hebrews. The Hebrews lived in a place called Egypt. They had very hard lives, because they were slaves. They had to work very hard for the people in Egypt, without getting any money or enough food to eat.

God saved the Hebrews. He did some amazing things to help them escape from Egypt. God told the Hebrew people that He was going to lead them to a special place full of wonderful food to eat. He was going to help them cross a dangerous desert until they found the special place He had for them. He promised to always be with them.

Do you know what the Hebrews did? Instead of trusting God to take care of them, they started complaining. They said that there was not enough food to eat in the desert, so God gave them special bread every morning. They said they were thirsty, so God made water come out of a rock! They said there was no meat to eat, so God sent them a huge flock of birds. No matter how much God did, they still complained! In fact, they even said they wished they had never left Egypt.

The Hebrews had a very hard time learning to trust God. Even though He showed them over and over that He would give them everything they needed, they never stopped complaining. They worried He wouldn’t do what He promised. We don’t have to be like that. We can know that we can always trust Jesus to help us.

**Small Group Story Time**

*When the Large Group Time is over, divide the children into small groups for story time.* The text provided here is to serve as a guide for you while you tell the story. *Read it through several times and be able to tell it from memory.* It is not important to be able to recite this story word-for-word. *Your goal is to be able to relate the story to a level children will understand.* Use the wording included here as suggestions to help you make these concepts understood by elementary age children. *Feel free to adapt these words to fit well with your own style.*
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Today’s Story:

We have learned a lot about Jesus this week. We learned that He will always love us, always forgive us, and always save us. We learned that all we have to do is ask Him, and He will do all those wonderful things for us. We learned yesterday that Jesus died on the cross so that He could be part of our lives every day. Jesus promises that He will never leave us if we ask Him to come into our lives.

In our large group time, we talked about the Hebrews. The Hebrews had a hard time trusting in God, even though they saw all the ways that He took care of them. Now we’re going to learn about a group of men that did learn to trust Jesus and about all the great things that He helped them to do. While Jesus was here on Earth, He spent a lot of time hanging out with a special group of friends called the disciples. The disciples were twelve friends that traveled with Jesus wherever He went. They learned from Him and helped Him to help people.

The disciples were very sad when Jesus died on the cross. They thought their best friend was gone forever. When Jesus came back to life three days later, the disciples were some of the first people that He visited. They were very excited to see Him. Jesus gave the disciples a great big job. He told them that they needed to tell the whole world about Him. Jesus wants all people to get a chance to believe in Him and ask Him to be in their life.

The disciples were a little bit worried. They did not know if they would be able to do such a big job. They knew that Jesus was going to go back to Heaven. They were scared of Him. Jesus told the disciples not to worry. He made them a promise that He would never leave anybody who loves Him.

At last the day came for Jesus to go back to Heaven. The disciples went with Jesus to the top of a hill. Jesus told them that He was going back to Heaven. He told them not to be afraid. He told them, “I want you to go all over the whole world to tell people about Me. Teach them what I taught you and help them learn to ask Me into their lives. Don’t be afraid, because no matter where you go, I will always be with you.” The disciples felt much better after Jesus’ promise. They were glad to know He would be with them.

The disciples left the mountain and went to a city called Jerusalem. They were still a little afraid. They wanted to do what Jesus had asked them to do. They wanted to tell the whole world about Jesus, but they were not sure they would be able to do it. Even though the disciples were still a little bit worried, they did not give up. They trusted Jesus. They knew that Jesus had promised to help them, so they trusted Him to do it.

One morning, after Jesus had gone back to Heaven, the disciples were together in Jerusalem. While they were sitting there together, they heard a very loud sound. Something amazing was happening. The disciples started to talk, but the words coming out of their mouths were in many different languages. They could not see Jesus, but they knew that He was right there with them. It was something only Jesus could do! The disciples were excited.

The people outside also heard the loud noise and ran to see what was happening. There were people in Jerusalem from many different countries that spoke many different languages. They came to hear what was going on. They were amazed, because all the people heard the disciples speaking in their own language. They did not understand what was happening.

One of the disciples, named Peter, stood up in front of the crowd. “Everyone listen to me,” he said. “You are all hearing us speak in your own language because Jesus is helping us. Jesus loves you and wants you to know that He is the only person that can save you.”

Peter told the people all about Jesus. He told them about how Jesus died on the cross and then came back to life three days later. The people were excited to learn about Jesus. Three thousand of them decided that they wanted to ask Jesus to be in their lives. That’s a lot of people! The disciples were happy. They trusted that Jesus would help them, and He did. Jesus allowed them to tell many, many people about His love.

The disciples had a lot of trust in Jesus. They knew they could count on Him even when they could not see Him. We can do the same thing. Jesus promised that He would never leave anybody who loves Him. If we ask
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Jesus to come be a part of our lives, He will do it.

*Each day you will close the story time with an invitation to accept Jesus.* Say something like this: God wants everybody to follow Him. The problem is that sometimes we do bad things that the Bible calls sin. A sin is anything that we do that God does not want us to do. God still loves us, even though we sin. That’s why Jesus came. Jesus died on the cross to be punished for our sins. Then on the third day He came back to life. Now, for anybody who asks, Jesus will take away our sins and become a part of our lives. He will help us to follow Him. The Bible says that if we believe Jesus in our hearts and follow Him, He will save us from our sin and help us to follow God. Then one day we will be with Him forever. Anybody that wants to choose to follow Jesus can do that today. We would love to help you know how.

**Prayer Time**

Take this time after the story to pray with the children in your small group. Ask them for things they would like to pray about. Tell God how awesome He is. Ask Him to help you and the children in your small group to listen to God and obey Him. Pray that the children in your group will get to know God and feel the love He has for them.

**Craft**

While still in your small groups, lead the children in making the craft or filling out the activities packet for the day. The craft time is not only a way to reinforce the lesson, but it also allows time to get to know the children in your small group. During this time, ask them questions about their families, friends, and school. Invest in their lives. For today’s craft time you will give each child an activity packet with pictures to color and various puzzles to solve.

**Memory Verse Activity**

Each day the small group time will include a Memory Verse Activity. The Memory Verse time is one of the most important activities of the day. We want these children to remember God’s word and why it is important to them. A list of potential activities is included in the Supplements and Handouts portion of this packet. Use a different idea from that list each day to help the children learn the words of the verse and to explain why it applies to their lives. (Some require extra preparation, so be sure to review the list in advance.) The memory verse for this week is:

*Zephaniah 3:17a—The LORD your God is with you; He is mighty to save.*

*Spanish: Sofonías 3:17a—El SEÑOR tu Dios está en medio de ti; él salvará.*

**Wrap Up**

Each day you will end your Rainbow Express in a second large group session. Have all the children return to the tarp where you started. Sometimes the movement from small groups to large group becomes distracting, especially to younger children. If you find your children becoming noisy as you return to your large group, consider singing a few songs to help everybody focus again.

The last thing you will do before games and snacks is to review the memory verse and the day’s lesson. Have the large group leader give a brief re-telling of the day’s story. As you tell the story, frequently pause to let the children answer questions and fill in the blanks about the lesson. When you finish reviewing the story, have everybody say the memory verse together one last time. After reviewing the memory verse, pray before dismissing to game time and snacks.
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**Game Time/Snacks**

When you are finished, pray together and be ready to play games until the end of the Rainbow Express program. After the game time, pass out snacks, clean up the area, and walk everyone home. Return to Mission Arlington to turn in your materials and attendance sheet.
For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21