May/June 2015
Rainbow Express® Mission Trip
Planning & Preparation Packet
We are so grateful that the Lord is sending your group to Mission Arlington® / Mission Metroplex® for a 2015 May/June Rainbow Express® Mission Trip! Our team is praying faithfully for you as you prepare spiritually and logistically to serve with us here.

This packet should contain everything you need to prepare for your trip to Mission Arlington®. Please take the time to go carefully through this information. Here is how the information is organized:

1) **Trip leader planning material**: information for the student minister or other overall trip leader with details about accommodations, responsibilities, expectations, and preparation. These pages have a blue border.

2) **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.

3) **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.

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

- **Jim Burgin, Heather Young, and Morgan Metcalf** lead our team of groups scheduling coordinators, with help from several other team members. You can reach them at 817-277-6620 or via e-mail at jim@missionarlington.org, hyoung@missionarlington.org, or mmetcalf@missionarlington.org.
- **Matt Hart** is our Rainbow Express® coordinator and will be one of your primary contacts while you are on your trip. You can reach him at the same phone number or via e-mail at matt@missionarlington.org.
- **Tillie Burgin** is our founder and Executive Director and always happy to answer questions. Her office phone number is the same or her e-mail is tillie@missionarlington.org.
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.

  Every group’s situation is different. If you need to adjust this schedule for whatever reason let us know. We can work together to help create a week that works well for everybody.

  • **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

5:00 PM  Meeting for all group leaders with Matt Hart, Rainbow Express® Coordinator

5:15 PM  Leave Mission Arlington®, pray and make any last minute preparations for beginning Rainbow Express® tomorrow

Tillie (our director) discusses the day’s assignments with a volunteer group
SCHEDULE: Weeks of June 8, 15, 22, or 29

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 and walk kids home.
5:00 Turn in daily report to Mission Arlington®. Options for projects in the evenings will be made available during the week.

Note—If your group is here one of these weeks, each Rainbow Express® team will lead two sites, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

SCHEDULE FOR ALL OTHER 2015 MAY/JUNE WEEKS

Monday—Thursday
8:30 Meet for morning devotional time
9:30 Devotional time dismisses
9:45 Begin work projects assignment (work projects will last from 10:00-1:00)
1:00 Take a lunch break.
2:15 Meet to worship and prepare for Rainbow Express®
3:15 Depart for Rainbow Express®
4:00 Rainbow Express® begins
5:30 Rainbow Express® ends. Clean up and walk kids home.
6:00 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 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.
- We are asking that students and leaders **not wear leggings/tights/yoga pants/”jeggings” unless they are also wearing shorts or a long shirt that would cover everythign normally covered by a pair of shorts.**
- **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** people 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.
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.
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. Breaks 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.)

If you are bringing a trailer for luggage, be sure to bring a hitch lock with you. We will have a place you can park your trailer during the week so you don’t have to pull it around the city but you will want a hitch lock for added security.
FOR ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS ATTENDING MAY/JUNE MISSION TRIP

For our May/June 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.*

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 9 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Sponsor(s):</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Leader:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large Group Leader:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Song Leader:</td>
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<td>Memory Verse Teacher:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puppet Wrangler:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Game Leader:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance Taker:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Leader:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Group Partner pairs:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(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 Matt Hart at matt@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.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1)</td>
<td>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.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2)</td>
<td>Who will be our primary contact while you are here?</td>
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<tr>
<td>3)</td>
<td>Is there anything we can do to help you prepare for Rainbow Express®?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4)</td>
<td>How many students do you expect to bring? How many sponsors?</td>
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<tr>
<td>5)</td>
<td>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.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6)</td>
<td>Confirm the date and approximate time you will be leaving from Mission Arlington®</td>
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<tr>
<td>7)</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8)</td>
<td>What type of transportation are you bringing (vans, buses, etc.) and how many vehicles?</td>
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<tr>
<td>9)</td>
<td>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.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10)</td>
<td>What is a cell phone number where we can reach you as you are traveling or when you arrive?</td>
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<tr>
<td>11)</td>
<td>Are you planning to stay in accommodations arranged by Mission Arlington®?</td>
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<td>12)</td>
<td>Is there anything else we need to know about your accommodations situation?</td>
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<tr>
<td>13)</td>
<td>Many of our accommodations are upstairs in apartments, etc, so please make sure we know if your group requires handicapped access.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14)</td>
<td>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.</td>
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</table>
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 Matt Hart or Debbie Musgrave at 817-277-6620 or e-mail matt@missionarlington.org.

**T-Shirt Order Form**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group:</th>
<th>Date of order:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact name and phone number:</td>
<td>Method of payment:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<td>Large</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<tr>
<td>X-Large</td>
<td>__________</td>
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<tr>
<td>XX-Large</td>
<td>__________</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*For those paying with Credit Card:*

Card type:

Name as it appears on card:

Billing address of credit card:

Credit Card Number:

Expiration date:

Total amount to be charged:

E-mail:

Contact # (in case of questions regarding credit card):
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 can mean temperatures above 100°. 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?
The Rules

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.
- We are asking that students **not wear leggings/tights/yoga pants/“jeggings”** unless they are also wearing shorts or a long shirt that would cover everything normally covered by a pair of shorts.

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. There is no housekeeping staff. So, help clean up spills, take out trash, and generally be clean and neat. (For example, don’t use sidewalk chalk at Rainbow Express®. It leaves work for apartment staff to wash it off.)

- **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 ourselves 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.

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect . . .*

1 Peter 3:15
Prayer Guide

We will be serving with Mission Arlington® this May/June 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, 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!*

Student’s Information Packet: each student needs this section—pg. 21
Large group time on the playground at a prior year’s Rainbow Express®

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, 3) younger elementary girls, 4) older elementary boys, 5) older elementary girls.)

It is a crucial part of our witness to the character of God that we honor our commitments to the neighborhoods where we are holding Rainbow Express®. That means don’t arrive late to Rainbow Express® and don’t leave early.
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.
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.

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. Your primary Mission Arlington® contact during the trip will be Matt Hart, cell phone number 817-929-2749.

- 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®.

**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. Two years ago we 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.

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!

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,
rise in the cavalry, shoot the artillery
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,
rise 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 in my soul.
I’ve got love like a mountain...
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 down in my heart
Down in my heart to stay
And I’m so happy, so very happy
I’ve got the love of Jesus in my heart
Down in my heart
And I’m so happy, so very happy
I’ve got the 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 then your feet will surely move it
If you’re happy and you know it then your hands will surely move it
If you’re happy and you know it then you will surely show it
If you’re happy and you know it then you will surely move it
If you’re happy and you know it then you will surely by
If you’re happy and you know it then you will surely move it

20. Jesus in the Morning
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning
Jesus at the noon time
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 na na
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
Walkin’ with the Lord
Walkin’ with the Lord
Satan didn’t like it when we
Came outta the wilderness
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-leluah
Ha-la-la-la-la-lehuah (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)
Ohhhhhhh
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)

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

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
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:

[Jesus said] “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.” Matthew 7:24 (NLT)

[Jesús dijo] El que escucha lo que yo enseño y hace lo que yo digo, es como una persona precavida que construyó su casa sobre piedra firme. Mateo 7:24 (BLS) (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.

Be sure to make a visual aid to help teach the memory verse.
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.

**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 a 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.**

**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 usually wears socks, so he should be easy to find again . . .**

**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.
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. 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 him 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 guide’s 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.
2015 May/June
Rainbow Express®
Curriculum
Stories, crafts, memory verse activities, and opening/closing activities for all four days of Rainbow Express®
Day One

- **Large Group**
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Memory Verse: Fast and Slow

- **Small Group**
  - Story: Daniel and the Lions
    - Theme: Prayer
    - Scripture for today’s story: Daniel 6:1-27
  - Memory Verse Review

- **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.

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 34.

**Testimony**

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 spoken in your life has made a practical and meaningful difference.

**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.

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TIP—The Large Group Leader should serve as a sort of “master of ceremonies” to keep each activity flowing smoothly. He should not, however, tell the day’s Bible story. That will go much smoother in the small group time. Children listen more attentively in smaller groups.
Day One

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.

Intro

This week we are going to be learning about what it means to have Jesus in our lives. Jesus, God’s son, wants to be our Savior and King. He is with us every day, every where we go. He loves us very much and wants to help us with every part of our lives. Jesus loves us, no matter what happens. That’s why He helps teach us how to live the great life that God made for us.

There are a few basic, very important things that we can do that will help our friendship with God get better and better. These things are kind of like a foundation. A foundation is the bottom of a building. You have to have a strong foundation to make the building strong. Imagine if your house was built on pillows instead of bricks or concrete. It wouldn’t be very strong would it? It would fall over easily. The foundation has to be first, and it has to be strong. There are things that are kind of the like the foundation in our lives too. These things have to be the most important. We have to do them well. When we have these things right, they help all the rest of our lives be better too. Jesus helps us to know what these “foundation” things are in our lives. (This first day, consider including an object lesson to explain the importance of a good foundation. Bring stackable “bricks” like shoe boxes or milk cartons. Show how easily they fall when stacked incorrectly. Then show how starting with a good foundation helps them stand up strong.)

Today we’re going to learn about the first building block for our life’s foundation. God loves us, so He wants to help us to have a good foundation. The first step in building this foundation is talking to Him. If we never talk to somebody, we can’t be very good friends with them, can we? If we never talked to God, we wouldn’t be very good friends with Him either. Since God wants to be our Savior and King, we need to spend time talking with Him. Talking with God is called prayer. Today’s story is about a man named Daniel who loved God so much that he didn’t stop praying, even when he knew it would get him in trouble. Let’s divide up into our small groups now.

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:

Today’s Story: Daniel and the Lions, Daniel 6:1-27

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to talk to a king? Wouldn’t it be nice if you could call a king on the phone and ask him to help you with anything you needed? If you had a way to talk to a king, don’t you think that you would want to use it?
What if you had a way to talk to somebody even more important than a king? You can. You can talk to God! Did you know that the Bible says you can talk to God any time that you want to? When we talk to God, it’s called praying. God loves it when we pray. He loves it when we talk to him. Even though God is so big and so powerful He can hold the universe in His hand, God loves it when we talk to Him.

Today’s story is about Daniel, a man who loved to talk to God by praying so much that he would not stop, even when it put him in danger. Daniel’s story starts with a king who lived a very long time ago. This king had one really big weakness: he loved for people to tell him how great he was. His big ego got him in trouble sometimes. His name was King Darius.

King Darius ruled long ago in a place called Babylon. Babylon was a huge place. In those days, it was the largest country in the world. In fact, it was so big that Darius decided he needed help to run it. He divided the kingdom into 120 different areas and put a ruler called a satrap in charge of each part. These 120 men were very powerful. It was their job to help King Darius run the whole kingdom. They were very happy with their new jobs. King Darius decided that he needed even more help. He chose three men that he trusted very much and put them in charge of the 120 satraps. These three were supposed to make sure that the satraps were doing their jobs. One of these men was Daniel. Daniel was a great leader and a close adviser to King Darius.

Daniel was so good at everything he did because God helped him. Daniel loved God very much. He spent part of each day talking to God by praying. He asked God to help him know how to live his life in a way that would make God happy. God likes it when we pray and talk to Him. He helped Daniel to be an excellent leader. King Darius decided that he was going to make Daniel the second most powerful person in all of Babylon.

The satraps did not like this new change. They did not want somebody else telling them what to do. They became very jealous of Daniel and his powerful new job. Together, they decided to look for a way to get rid of Daniel. The satraps watched Daniel closely. They were looking for a way to get him in trouble. They thought that if they followed Daniel closely enough they would find something that he was doing to break the King’s rules. They would tell on Daniel to the king, and Daniel would get fired. The satraps’ plan did not work, however. They could not find anything wrong that Daniel was doing. Finally the satraps came up with a very tricky plan. “We will never find Daniel breaking the rules,” they said, “unless we make it against the rules to pray to God. We will trick the king into making a rule that Daniel will break: a rule making it illegal to pray to God.”

The satraps went to see King Darius. They seemed very friendly to the king. “King Darius, we hope that you live forever,” they said. “We think you should pass a new law. Since you are such a great and wonderful king, pass a law that nobody can pray for help to anybody except you for 30 days. That way all the people will see how wonderful you are. Say that the punishment for breaking the law is to be thrown into a cave full of lions.”

This was a terrible idea, of course. But the satraps tricked King Darius. It made him feel good about himself when they talked about how wonderful he was. King Darius did not stop to think about what he was doing. He made the satraps’ law. For 30 days it would be against the law to pray to God.

The satraps watched and waited. They knew that Daniel loved God. They knew that it was very important to Daniel to talk to God by praying. They waited to see if he would break the king’s law. That day Daniel heard about the new law. He went home to his house. He went into the upstairs bedroom and opened the window where everybody could see him. Then he got down on his knees and prayed to God, thanking God for all the wonderful things He does for us.

The satraps were thrilled. They rushed back to the king. “King Darius,” they asked “didn’t you make a law that anybody who prays to God should be thrown to the lions?”

“That’s right,” King Darius answered. “Anybody who breaks the law will go to the lions.”
“King Darius, we have found somebody breaking the law. Daniel went upstairs where everybody could see him and prayed to God. Now you have to throw Daniel to the lions.”

King Darius became very angry. He knew that the satraps had tricked him. He did not want to send his friend Daniel to be eaten by the lions. He tried all day to find a way around the law to save Daniel from the lions.

That evening, the satraps came back to the king. “Remember, King Darius,” the satraps told him “that the king cannot disobey the law. The laws of our country cannot be changed or undone. You must throw Daniel to the lions.”

Sadly, the king gave the order. The satraps brought Daniel and threw him into the cave of lions. King Darius called to Daniel in the cave. “I know that you always serve God,” the king yelled. “I hope that he will save you from the lions.”

That night King Darius was so sad and worried that he could not sleep. He was afraid that the lions had eaten his friend Daniel. He stayed up all night, hoping that Daniel would be okay. As soon as the sun came up the next morning, the King hurried to the lions’ cave.

“Daniel, servant of God,” King Darius yelled down into the cave. “Did God, who you love so much, save you from the lions?” He waited to hear if Daniel was still alive.

“King Darius, God sent an angel to close the lions’ mouths. He did not let them hurt me, because He knows that I did not do anything wrong.”

King Darius was overjoyed. He ordered ropes to be lowered down into the cave and had Daniel pulled up. King Darius was grateful that God had saved his friend Daniel. The King realized that he had made a very foolish law. He sent a letter to all of the people in the kingdom telling them that they should pray to God. He told the whole kingdom that God had saved Daniel from the lions.

Why do you think Daniel decided to pray, even when he knew it would get him in trouble? Daniel loved God very much. One way that he showed his love for God was by talking to him. Imagine if somebody told you that you should not talk any more with the people that you love. Wouldn’t you want to talk to them anyway? That is what Daniel did. He talked to God, even when other people did not think he should. It was more important to Daniel to do what God wanted than to do what the king wanted.

God showed how much He loved Daniel by saving him from the lions when he prayed. God loves us very much too. He shows us this when we pray to him, too. God will always love us, no matter what happens. Sometimes, though, we do things that break God’s rules. These bad things, which the Bible calls sins, get in the way of our friendship with God. They make Him very sad. That is why God sent Jesus. Jesus came to take away those sins. He died on the cross and then came back to life so that God could save us from our sin, just like He saved Daniel from the lions. All we have to do to be saved by God is to pray. We can talk to God and tell Him that we want to follow Him and have Jesus in our lives. If you would like to know more about how to do this, just let us know.

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 in heaven. Anybody that wants to choose to follow Jesus can do that today. We would love to help you know how.
Day One

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:

[Jesus said] “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.” Matthew 7:24 (NLT)

[Jesús dijo] El que escucha lo que yo enseño y hace lo que yo digo, es como una persona precavida que construyó su casa sobre piedra firme. Mateo 7:24 (BLS)(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: Jesus is Tempted
    - Theme: God’s Word
    - Memory Verse Review

- **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.

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 34.

**Testimony**

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.

**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.

Intro

This week we are going to be learning about what it means to have Jesus in our lives. Jesus, God’s son, wants to be our Savior and King. He is with us every day, every where we go. He loves us very much and wants to help us with every part of our lives. Jesus loves us, no matter what happens. That’s why He helps teach us how to live the great life that God made for us.

There are a few basic, very important things that we can do that will help our friendship with God get better and better. These things are kind of like a foundation. A foundation is the bottom of a building. You have to have a strong foundation to make the building strong. Imagine if your house was built on pillows instead of bricks or concrete. It wouldn’t be very strong would it? It would fall over easily. The foundation has to be first, and it has to be strong. There are things that are kind of like the foundation in our lives too. These things have to be the most important. We have to do them well. When we have these things right, they help all the rest of our lives be better too. Jesus helps us to know what these “foundation” things are in our lives.

Today we’re going to learn about the second building block for our life’s foundation. God loves us, so He wants to help us to have a good foundation. Yesterday we learned about prayer, or talking to God. Today we’re going to learn about one of the ways that we listen to God. I’m holding my Bible here. The Bible is an amazing book that God gave us to help us know how much He loves us. I read my Bible to help me learn what God wants to tell me. Having my Bible in my heart and my head is like a builder that carries around tools. It helps me to always be ready for whatever comes up. Since God wants to be our Savior and King, we need to spend time with Him. Taking time to learn God’s word is one way to spend time with Him. Today’s story is about a time that Jesus used the Bible to outwit the Devil, who was trying to trick Him. Let’s divide into our small groups now.

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.

Yesterday we talked about prayer. We learned that praying means talking to God. We learned that we can talk to God about anything that we need. God loves us, and He loves to hear from us. God loves to listen to us. God doesn’t just listen when we talk. He talks to us too. One of the easiest ways to hear from God is through the Bible. The Bible is an amazing book. God made it to help us know about Him. Over many years God gave messages to many different people to write down for all of us to know. Today we have these messages pulled together in one book, the Bible. The Bible is just like a letter from God to us.

Think about the last time you got mail from somebody you really care about. Did you just put the letter up on a shelf without reading it? Of course not! You opened it up to see what that person wanted to tell you. Remember that the Bible is like a very special letter from God. We should want to read it, study it, and learn what God wants to tell us. Knowing the Bible helps us hear from God in times when it is really important.

Yesterday we said that God loves us very much. That is why he likes to listen to us when we pray and speak to us through the Bible. We also said that we all do bad things sometimes, things that go against God’s plan. The Bible calls these bad things sins. Sins get in the way of our friendship with God. They push us away from Him.

We have talked a lot about how much God loves us. We know that God wants to be our Savior and King. We have an enemy too. The Devil wants to destroy us just as much as God wants to save us. The Devil tries to get us not to follow God. He is very smart and very tricky, and works hard to keep us sinning. It might sound like the Devil is more of a problem than we can handle, but we don’t have to worry. We don’t ever have to be afraid of the Devil if we follow God, because God is so much more powerful. God will help us any time we ask for it. He can keep us out of the devil’s traps. Learning about the Bible is one way that God can protect us from the Devil when he tries to get us to sin.

If there were no way to get rid of sins, we would not be able to go to Heaven to be with God when we die. Since God loves us so much, He wanted to change that. That is why Jesus, the Son of God, came to Earth. He came so that He could save us from our sin.

Jesus lived a human life, but He never disobeyed God’s rules. Jesus was the only person that never sinned. Since He never sinned, He was able to take away our sins. If Jesus had sinned, He wouldn’t have been able to save us. It was a very important part of God’s plan that Jesus never disobey God’s rules.

Since the Devil does not want us to be saved, he tried hard to get Jesus to sin. He wanted to stop Jesus from saving us. The Bible tells us that Jesus never fell for the Devil’s tricks. He never sinned. One of the ways that Jesus kept from sinning was by knowing the Bible very well.

Jesus lived in a place called Israel. He had a job there as a carpenter, a person who makes things out of wood. When He was about thirty years old, it was time for Him to begin teaching the people about God. He was going to travel all over the country, teaching people that God loved them and how to follow Him. At the very beginning of His travels Jesus went through kind of a test to make sure that He was never going to disobey.

God sent Jesus out into the desert to pray. Jesus stayed there for forty days, praying to God His Father. For those forty days Jesus did not eat anything. At the end of His time in the desert Jesus felt hungry, weak, and sick. The Devil decided it would be a good time to try to trick Jesus into sinning.

The Devil came to see Jesus in the desert. It was obvious that Jesus was very hungry. The Devil pointed to some of the rocks lying in the desert sand. The Devil told Jesus, “If you are really God, prove it by using your power to turn
these rocks into bread. Then you won’t be hungry any more.” The Devil wanted Jesus to disobey God’s instructions to pray and not eat.

The thought of eating all that bread must have seemed really good to Jesus. We know He was very hungry. But Jesus did not disobey. He remembered something from the Bible that helped Him. “The Bible says that people don’t only live by eating bread,” He told the Devil. “We live by following all of God’s words.”

The Devil was angry that Jesus did not fall for his trick. He decided to try a harder test. The Devil took Jesus to the top of a high mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms and treasures of the whole world. “If you will bow down to me, I will give you everything you see, all the riches and all the power in the whole world,” the Devil told Jesus.

Can you imagine what you might do if somebody offered you all of the money in the whole world? That would be really hard to say “no” to, wouldn’t it? Jesus did not give in to the Devil. He remembered another part in the Bible that helped Him know what to do. “It is written in the Bible to only worship and serve God, and nobody else,” Jesus said to the Devil.

The Devil was furious. Twice Jesus had used God’s words in the Bible to escape the Devil’s trap. The Devil thought of a tricky plan. He would use part of the Bible for his trap. The Devil thought maybe he could trick Jesus if he said part of the Bible too. He took Jesus to the very top part of a very tall building. The Devil told Jesus, “The Bible says that God will send angels to take care of His son so that He won’t get hurt. Test and see if that’s really true. Jump off this building and see if the angels catch you.”

Jesus did not fall for the Devil’s trick. “The Bible also says don’t try to test God,” He said. Jesus meant that He already knew God was able to take care of Him. We can trust everything God tells us, because God never lies. He didn’t need to try to test what God told Him.

The Devil knew he had failed. Jesus got around all three of his tricks by knowing what God said in the Bible. When we know God’s words and trust God’s words, we can use it to protect ourselves from the Devil.

All of Jesus’ life He never sinned. He followed God’s instructions and taught about God’s love. Then Jesus died on the cross. He took the punishment that we deserved. That means that Jesus got in trouble for the bad things that we have done. The third day after Jesus’ death, He came back to life. Now anybody can follow Jesus and be saved from sins.

The Bible is full of important messages from God to us. None is more important than God’s love for us. In fact, the Bible tells us that God loved the world so much that He sent His only Son to us. Now anybody who believes in Jesus can be saved from sin and have life forever with God. If you would like to know how to have Jesus as your savior from sin, just ask us and we will help you know how.

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 in heaven. Anybody that wants to choose to follow Jesus can do that today. We would love to help you know how.
**Day Two**

**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:

*Jesus said* “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.” Matthew 7:24  (NLT)

*Spanish:* *Jesús dijo* El que escucha lo que yo enseño y hace lo que yo digo, es como una persona precavida que construyó su casa sobre piedra firme. Mateo 7:24 (BLS)

**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 Three

- **Large Group**
  - Songs
  - Puppets
  - Testimony
  - Memory Verse: Teams

- **Small Group**
  - Story: Jesus’ Death and Resurrection
    - Theme: Jesus is the Way to Follow God
    - Memory Verse Review

- **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**

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 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.

*This week we are going to be learning about what it means to have Jesus in our lives. Jesus, God’s son, wants to be our Savior and King. He is with us every day, every where we go. He loves us very much and wants to help us with every part of our lives. Jesus loves us, no matter what happens. That’s why He helps teach us how to live the great life that God made for us.*

There are a few basic, very important things that we can do that will help our friendship with God get better and better. These things are kind of like a foundation. A foundation is the bottom of a building. You have to have a strong foundation to make the building strong. Imagine if your house was built on pillows instead of bricks or concrete. It wouldn’t be very strong would it? It would fall over easily. The foundation has to be first, and it has to be strong. There are things that are kind of like the foundation in our lives too. These things have to be the most important. We have to do them well. When we have these things right, they help all the rest of our lives be better too. Jesus helps us to know what these “foundation” things are in our lives.

*Today we’re going to learn about the third building block for our life’s foundation. God loves us, so He wants to help us to have a good foundation. So far we have talked about talking with and listening to God. But let me ask you a question, does it do us any good to listen to what God says if we don’t obey what He says? Of course not! The Bible says that we need to be doers of what God says, not just hearers of what God says. Imagine if a builder had all the plans to make a great building, but he decided not to follow the plans. Instead of doing what his instructions told him to do, he would just put bricks and boards and windows wherever he wanted. That building wouldn’t turn out very well. A good builder has to follow the plans. That’s just like us. We need to follow God’s instructions if we want our lives to be like He wants them to be.*

*We know that it is important to follow what God says because Jesus Himself showed us. He obeyed everything that God said for Him to do. He even obeyed and let Himself be killed on the cross. Jesus’ obedience to go to the cross is the only thing that made a way to save us from our sins. That’s the story we’re going to learn today. Let’s divide into our small groups now.*

**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:

We have learned this week that God tells us He loves us and wants to help us. He wants to be our Savior and King and be the most important part of our lives. We also learned that He wants us to obey Him and follow Him because He knows that is what is best for us.

God created us because He wants us to be with Him. He wants to help us every day of our lives. Then when our lives are over, He wants us to be with Him forever in Heaven. The problem is that when we disobey God and do things we should not do it separates us from Him. Our bad choices and bad actions keep us away from all the goodness that God wants for our lives. That is why God sent His own son, Jesus, to help us. Jesus came to take away the bad things that we have done.

Jesus was God’s son. He came from Heaven to live here on Earth for about thirty years. He spent His time here teaching people how to know and follow God. He also did a lot to help people, like feeding them or healing the sick.

There were some people who did not like Jesus. These people were leaders who wanted people to follow them. They wanted to make themselves more rich, famous, and powerful. These leaders did not like people following Jesus. These people decided that they wanted to get rid of Jesus. They decided to kill Him.

The leaders arrested Jesus and ordered soldiers to kill Him by nailing Him to a cross, even though He had never done anything wrong. Dying on a cross is called being crucified. Two other men were being crucified that same day. These men were not good like Jesus. They were thieves who were dying for crimes they committed.

The soldiers took Jesus and the two criminals to a hill called “The Skull”. They nailed Jesus’ hands and feet to a cross. They put the two thieves on crosses too, with Jesus in the middle.

A big crowd of people came to Skull Hill to watch Jesus die. While Jesus was nailed to the cross, He talked to God, His father. “Father, please forgive them,” Jesus asked “because they do not know what they are doing.”

The people watching started to make fun of Jesus. They laughed and called Him names. The leaders who hated Jesus began to yell. “Jesus said He could save people from sin. Why doesn’t He save Himself from the cross?” The soldiers made fun of Jesus too. The soldiers and the leaders did not understand that Jesus stayed on the cross so that He could take away our sins.

One of the criminals on a cross began to shout at Jesus. “You’re not really God’s son,” the man yelled. “If you were, you could save yourself and us from these crosses.”

The other criminal told the first to be quiet. “Have respect for God,” the second criminal said. “We are being punished for things we really did do. Jesus hasn’t done anything wrong. He is being punished for no reason.”

The thief looked at Jesus. “I know that you are God’s son and that you are going back to Heaven. Please remember me when you get there.”

Jesus told him “I promise that today you will be with me in Heaven.” That thief was a very bad man. He was being crucified for breaking many laws. Even he admitted that he deserved to die for the bad things that he had done. Even though he was so bad, God still loved him! God still let that man go into Heaven because he believed in Jesus. That is the important message that Jesus brings us. God loves us, no matter what. Now anybody can follow God just by accepting the free gift that Jesus offers us.
Soon it became very dark, and Jesus died. The good news is that the story does not end there. Jesus did not stay dead. His friends took His body down and put it in a cave. It was in the cave for two days. On the third day, something wonderful happened: Jesus came back to life!

When Jesus’ friends went to visit the place they had put His body, it was empty. Jesus was gone. He was not dead; He was alive! Jesus obeyed God to go to the cross. Then God brought Him back to life. God always has a plan to help us when we obey what He tells us.

God sent Jesus to help us. Jesus died to take away all the bad things that we have done. Then He came back to life, and invites everybody to follow Him. Jesus had a choice. He did not have to die on the cross, but He chose to so that He could help us. You can see that Jesus loves us very much!

Sometimes we might feel a little bit like the thief on the cross. We know that we have done bad things, and we might wonder if God still loves us. He does! It’s easy to see from this story that Jesus loves us all, no matter who we are or what we have done. Jesus loved the bad people that put Him on the cross. He prayed that God would forgive them. Jesus loved the thief, too, so He promised to take the thief to Heaven. Just like the thief, all we have to do is ask. If anybody here would like to know how to do that, please just let us know.

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 in heaven. 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.

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:

[Jesus said] “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.” Matthew 7:24  (NLT)

Spanish: [Jesús dijo] El que escucha lo que yo enseño y hace lo que yo digo, es como una persona precavida que construyó su casa sobre piedra firme. Mateo 7:24 (BLS)

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 Three Craft

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 está 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: Jonah
    - Theme: Telling Others About Jesus
    - Scripture for today’s story: Jonah 1:3
    - Memory Verse Review

- Large Group
  - Story review questions

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

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 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.

Intro

This week we are learning about what it means to have Jesus in our lives. Jesus, God’s son, wants to be our Savior and King. He is with us every day, every where we go. He loves us very much and wants to help us with every part of our lives. Jesus loves us, no matter what happens. That’s why He helps teach us how to live the great life that God made for us.

There are a few basic, very important things that we can do that will help our friendship with God get better and better. These things are kind of like a foundation. A foundation is the bottom of a building. You have to have a strong foundation to make the building strong. Imagine if your house was built on pillows instead of bricks or concrete. It wouldn’t be very strong would it? It would fall over easily. The foundation has to be first, and it has to be strong. There are things that are kind of the like the foundation in our lives too. These things have to be the most important. We have to do them well. When we have these things right, they help all the rest of our lives be better too. Jesus helps us to know what these “foundation” things are in our lives.

Today we’re going to learn about the fourth building block for our life’s foundation. God loves us, so He wants to help us to have a good foundation. Yesterday we learned about Jesus’ death on the cross. Then we learned how He came back to life. We learned that what Jesus did on the cross is the only way that we can be saved from our sins. Having Jesus in our lives is the only way to have a solid foundation like God wants us to have. Now that we know what Jesus did for us, don’t you think we should tell other people the good news? We want other people to know how wonderful life with Jesus can be. God wants us to tell other people too. In fact, Jesus said that we should go to all the world to tell people about Him. Part of obeying God is helping other people know how they can know God too.

Today we’re going to learn about a man named Jonah. Jonah was sent by God to tell a certain group of people about Him. Unfortunately, Jonah did not want to obey God. He did not want to tell the people about a life with God. We’re going to see that God did something pretty amazing to change Jonah’s mind. Let’s divide into our small groups now.

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.
Day Four

by elementary age children. Feel free to adapt these words to fit well with your own style.

Today's Story:

We talked yesterday about what it means to be obedient to God. Did you know that one of the most important things that God tells us to do is help other people know about Him? God wants all people to know that He loves them, and He gives us the job of telling them. The last instructions Jesus ever gave before He went back to Heaven was that those of us who know about Him should tell the whole world.

Today's story is about a man named Jonah. Jonah lived long before Jesus was born on Earth. Jonah was a prophet. That means that God gave him special messages to share with people. Jonah lived and worked as a prophet in a place called Israel.

In those days, Israel had very powerful enemies. The most dangerous of all were the people in a city called Nineveh. The Ninevites made life miserable for the Israelites. The Ninevites were known for being cruel, wicked people.

One day, God sent a message to Jonah that surprised him very much. “Go to Nineveh,” God told Jonah. “I have seen that it is a very wicked place. Go there and tell them about Me.”

Jonah was shocked. Nineveh was the enemy of his own people. He did not understand why God would send him there. Jonah did not want to go to his enemies. He decided not to go to Nineveh. He decided to run away from God instead.

Jonah bought a ticket for a boat sailing to Tarshish, a city far, far away from Nineveh. As the boat set sail, Jonah went down below the deck and went to sleep. As the boat traveled toward Tarshish God sent a strong wind blowing across the sea. A huge storm began to rock the boat. The waves beat the ship so hard that it almost broke apart.

The sailors on the boat began to worry. They threw many things off the boat to make it lighter. They began to pray to be saved from the storm. The captain of the boat found Jonah asleep below. “How can you be sleeping?” the captain shouted. “Wake up and pray that we will be saved from this storm.”

When Jonah woke up he became very worried. He knew what was happening. He knew that God sent the storm because Jonah was not obeying Him by preaching to the Ninevites. Jonah told the sailors the truth. “I am a servant of God,” he said. “God made the sky, the land, and the sea. He is sending this storm because I am running away from Him.”

The storm grew worse and worse as Jonah told the sailors his story. “What can we do to make the storm stop?” they asked him.

“Throw me off of the boat,” Jonah answered, “and the storm will stop bothering you.”

The sailors did not want to throw Jonah overboard. They got out paddles and tried to row their way back to land. It was no use. They could not row the boat out of the storm, no matter how hard they tried. Finally they gave up. They picked Jonah up and threw him off the ship. As soon as Jonah was off the boat, the storm stopped.

Jonah splashed down into the water. He was probably scared that he was going to die in the sea. But God had another plan. He still wanted Jonah to teach the Ninevites about Him. God sent a huge fish swimming toward Jonah. As Jonah floated along, wondering what was going to happen to him, the huge fish swallowed him whole.

Can you imagine how scared Jonah must have been? The great fish swallowed him in one gulp. But the fish did not eat Jonah. Instead, Jonah floated along, trapped inside the fish’s belly. Jonah was trapped in the fish for three days
and three nights. From inside the fish, Jonah prayed to God. Jonah asked God to save him from the fish. He promised that if God rescued him, he would finally go to Nineveh.

God loves us so much that He always listens when we pray. He heard Jonah’s prayer from the belly of the fish. God knew that Jonah had disobeyed Him and deserved his punishment. More importantly, God knew that He loved Jonah. God knew He loved the Ninevites too. He wanted Jonah to teach them about Him. So God gave the great fish an order. He sent the fish swimming toward Nineveh. Suddenly, to Jonah’s surprise, the fish spit him out on the beach near Nineveh.

Once again, God gave Jonah a job to do. “Go into Nineveh,” God said. “Teach the people there about me.” After ignoring God’s instructions, running away from his job, and spending half a week inside the stomach of a sea monster, Jonah finally obeyed God. He walked into the huge city of Nineveh and began to preach about God. As Jonah preached, something amazing began to happen. The Ninevite people, known for being cruel and wicked, began to listen. They listened closely to Jonah tell about God. They listened as he explained that the way they behaved did not make God happy. They listened as Jonah listed all the terrible things they did in Nineveh. Jonah gave them a warning: either they needed to change their ways and turn to God, or they would be punished.

The news of Jonah and his message reached all the way to the king of Nineveh. When the king heard the news, he jumped up from his throne and tore his clothing. He was so upset to learn that he and his people had made God sad by their actions. The king sent a message to all the people of the city. “Have everybody, even the animals, quit what they are doing,” the king ordered. “Don’t eat, don’t drink, don’t put on fancy clothes. Stop all our wickedness and violence. Just pray and ask God to forgive us for the way we have acted. God is loving and kind. Let’s ask him to forgive us and not to punish us.”

The people of Nineveh obeyed the king. They changed the ways they acted. They prayed and asked God for a second chance to follow Him. God heard their prayers. He forgave the Ninevite people for all the bad things they had done. He gave them a new opportunity to live the way He wanted them to live. The whole city changed.

Don’t you think that Jonah would have been happy that the people listened to his message? He wasn’t happy. In fact, Jonah was angry. He did not want God to forgive the Ninevites, because he thought of them as his enemies. Jonah just didn’t understand God’s love. He was grateful when God gave him a second chance and rescued him from the whale, but he was angry when God gave the Ninevites a second chance. Jonah was unhappy that God loved the Ninevites just as much as He loved Jonah.

Jonah might not have liked it, but that’s one of the most wonderful things about God. His love is free for anybody who will take it. God loves all of us, no matter what country we come from, what language we speak, what our family is like, or what church we go to. That is why Jesus gave us the mission of telling all people about Him. He wants to make sure the whole world knows about what He did for us by dying on the cross and then coming back to life. Jesus tells us to tell all people about how they can be saved by Him.

God loves to give second chances. That is why He saved Jonah from the fish and sent him on to Nineveh. God gives us a second chance too. Jesus’ death and return to life make it possible for us to have a second chance. If we accept what Jesus did for us and choose to follow Him, Jesus saves us. The Bible teaches that if we put Jesus as the leader of our lives and believe with all our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved. All we have to do is accept the opportunity God offers us. If you would like to know how to do that, ask us how.

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
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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 in heaven. 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:

[Jesús dijo] “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.” Matthew 7:24 (NLT)

[Jesus said] “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.” Matthew 7:24 (NLT)

Spanish: [Jesús dijo] El que escucha lo que yo enseño y hace lo que yo digo, es como una persona precavida que construyó su casa sobre piedra firme. Mateo 7:24 (BLS)

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.
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