



AGENT TRAINING

YOUR GUIDE TO BECOMING A BETTER CHRISTIAN

13-WEEK SERIES LEADER'S GUIDE

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SERIES OVERVIEW

SERIES KEY VERSE

PROVERBS 22:6 – Train a child up in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.

SERIES GOALS

Before we can do more, we need to really know what we are doing. It might sound obvious, but many people keep trying to improve by doing the same thing over and over again. They hope that somehow they will get different results. In my book, this is the definition of insanity. If you don't learn more about what you are doing or from your mistakes, you will be cursed to repeat them or you'll stop trying all together in total frustration.

The children in your ministry may be already experiencing some of this frustration as they are stepping into trying out ministry. Some may have been told that they are too young or feel that they are not important or special like other children, so they don't even try. Others may have tried to copy what they have seen or heard without understanding why and had shaky results.

The overall goal of this 13-week series is to help children understand the various facets of ministry and give them chances each week to actually put it into practice as agents of God. In the lessons, we look at a specific role or ministry—our disguise—that we, as Christians, are called to perform. We also take a long look at the life of Jesus, God's greatest agent ever, to learn how we can become more like Him.

WEEKLY LESSON SUMMARY

WEEK 1 – ANSWERING THE CALL—God Wants You!

In this first week of the series, the goal is to help the children understand that each of them is important to God. Each child was created with special gifts and talents and all they need is training to unlock them. All they need to do is say yes, and their training will begin!

WEEK 2 – MASTER OF DISGUISE—Putting On the Life of Christ

Disguises are tools that can be used for both good and bad. They can hide who we are, or deceive people in to a lie. This week, the children will understand that our disguises are not costumes, but attitudes in the heart that we need to put on as we serve others.

WEEK 3 – THE BUTLER—Serving With Style

As Christians, our lives are to be dedicated to helping others. This means that we need to learn to serve. This week, the children will learn about becoming a butler and taking on the role of caring for all the children in God's family.

WEEK 4 – THE CABLE GUY—Get Wired Into Headquarters (Prayer)

Prayer is vital to being an effective agent. It is our connection to heaven—our true headquarters—for instructions and power to accomplish our missions. Like a cable man that connects our television to the source of the signal, our prayers connect people around us to God.

WEEK 5 – THE ROCK STAR—Let The Beat Go On (Worship)

We as Christians are to worship only God, but at times, worship is not something we can easily do. The focus this week is the importance and influence music has on our lives. It can affect our moods and attitudes and is the only way that we can truly enter the presence of God.



WEEK 6 – THE CHEERLEADER—Encouragement All the Times

Encouragement is the central theme of this week's lesson as we learn that being a cheerleader isn't about pom-poms and megaphones. It's about helping staying positive in a challenge and helping others to achieve great things.

WEEK 7 – THE PROFESSOR—Sharing, Thinking, Learning

A teacher is an instructor that should impart not only knowledge but also share wisdom. There is a difference between the two. This week the children will learn the difference and how to share what they learn with others.

WEEK 8 – THE STORE OWNER—Supplying The Essentials for the Mission

We all have more than we need. To become a store owner, we need to know what we have and what we should make available to others. It is not to make money, but to make sure that each person has all that they need.

WEEK 9 – THE BEGGAR—A Lesson In Humility

In contrast to last week's store owner lesson, the role of the beggar is about understanding that we all have needs. By the end of this lesson, the children will learn that God sometimes places us in need so that we can grow and we should not be afraid to ask for help.

WEEK 10 – THE DOCTOR—Healing And Other's Feelings

When Jesus was on earth, He healed many people through his kind words and gentle touch. We are called to do the same as we take on the role of a doctor. We share words of healing, comfort and hope to point people back to God, the greatest physician of all.

WEEK 11 – THE COACH—Focusing On Working Together

As agents, we need to be ready to lead. Leadership is more than telling people what to do; it is about seeing the potential in each person and working together as a unified team. Like a cheerleader, it requires encouragement and letting others know that they can do more together.

WEEK 12 – THE POLICE—Living By The Rules Of God

In short, this week is all about rules—both understanding them and obeying them. As we explore the disguise of the policeman, the children will understand that rule are tools that protect, instruct and should help those that they were created for.

WEEK 13 – THE AMBASSADOR—Taking The Mission Beyond

As the series comes to a close, the children learn that the best agent is one that can use his or her skills anywhere and at any time. They become representatives that can be sent to handle the most important missions and like an ambassador, they help people understand and improve relations between God and the people they meet.



STANDARD LESSON ELEMENTS

At Kidco Labs, we believe that teaching should be tailored to fit the strengths of the ministry team and arranged to suit the needs of the children. This means planning, thought and care should go into each week's lesson preparation to make sure that every class time is special. It should be as unique as each child in the class, and allow each one to walk out with a lasting memory.

Every Kidco series has been written and used in a classroom setting. It is not something that we think works, but we KNOW it works. It has been written in the same order that it was originally taught that worked for us. As you read through the lessons, it is important to realize the various elements that make up the core of the lesson.

There is no perfect order or sequence to make them effective. This is a decision that you will need to make with your leaders. Remember, sometimes trying something new can have a dynamic effect on the overall outcome of the class. It is also important that you use as many of the leaders as possible to share in the teaching. Trading out speakers helps give variety to the message, it helps take the burden out of ministry and helps prevent burnout.

There are other reasons as well. The children will realize that all the leaders do work together as a team and each is knowledgeable in what they are sharing. For some children, there may be a leader that they have a special admiration for and hearing a portion of the message from that person may become the lasting memory that changes a child's life forever. This is what ministry is all about.

THE LESSON ELEMENTS

In each lesson, the following core components are used. These can be arranged in any order that you feel will be most effective to meet the needs of your children.

LESSON GOALS* – This is a summary of the overall lesson and should be considered when planning the class time. Your goal should be to make sure that by the end of the time together, the message was clear, understood and received in a way that the children could share with others if asked.

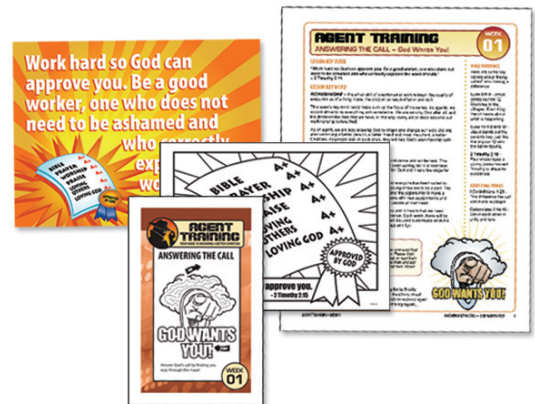
SCRIPTURE REFERENCES* – There are times that we make references to passages in the Bible rather than reading the entire text. In these cases, it is helpful for the leaders to read the entire passage ahead of time so that they can answer any questions the children might have correctly when asked. We also believe that reading these Scripture passages ahead of time allows God to minister to the leaders and help us learn and grow in new ways too.

LESSON KEY VERSE – Each week, there is a key verse or memory verse that is part of the lesson. Although the verse will be covered during the class time, it is also the verse that they will need to memorize to gain points next week to complete their training.

OPENING EXERCISES – This section is comprised of all the normal details that need to be covered. It is the time to welcome visitors, greet the children, give a lesson update on what happened last week for those who missed the class, and encourage the children to keep up the good work. This is also the time to cover announcements, the message from headquarters, and updates of any other happenings that the children need to know about.

MESSAGE FROM HEADQUARTERS – The overall concept of Kidco Labs is about learning through exploration and discovery. Each week, a letter or message from the director at Headquarters is received encouraging the children in the mission and outlining the tasks for the day. The sole purpose of this letter is let the children know what to expect in the class. It doesn't tell them everything. It's just enough for them to know what the focus of the day is all about.

* For teachers and leaders only.



PRAISE AND WORSHIP - We do not believe that you can gather in God's name without giving Him praise and worship. Each lesson offers suggestions of either music from a DVD or a musical theme to arrange a worship set around. Each set should include high-energy praise, a moderate energy praise/worship song and an intimate worship selection that allows children to enter into God's presence.

PRAYER TIME – Once praise and worship is complete, the children will have the right hearts and attitudes to focus on prayer needs. We recommend recording them from week to week so that leaders can continue to lift them up in prayer throughout the week. It also gives leaders something to check in with the kids later about.

NOTE: If your children are not used to praying, I recommend allowing the children to pray for each other's needs. Once they have all given their requests and praise reports, select several of your children to pray for specific needs. It will help give them confidence to pray aloud in a group setting and will build their faith as these prayers are answered.

OFFERING OBJECT LESSON – God commands that we bring our tithes and offerings to the storehouse. Each week, there is a portion of the lesson that is dedicated to helping the children understand the importance of giving. This lesson also directly ties back to the weekly theme.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES – Many children have a hard time memorizing things. Each of these activities is designed as a game that helps the children review the key verse several times. By the end of the activities, most of them will have the key verse committed to memory.

GROUP ACTIVITY – This game or activity is designed to be a high-energy segment of the class time. It is strategically placed just before the message to do 2 things. First, it helps burn off extra energy so that the children will be more attentive to the teaching. Second, the activities and games are designed for more than fun; they are an object lesson created to help the children begin to experience a portion of the message. In short, the children are doing more than having fun; they are starting to live the message.

LESSON PLAN – This is the core of the class time. It is recommended that the children be back in their seats and remain attentive during this portion of the class. During this time, the actual message will be shared.

NOTE: Although we love to use some rather wild props for games, skits and activities, we make it a point to show God all my respect during this time. It doesn't mean that we are somber or overly serious, but it does mean that what we say is to be taken as truth, not for fun! (we have told the children this on numerous occasions if one gets one of line.) Props and gimmicks should only be used to emphasize a point, not purely for entertainment value.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES – For kids, timing is everything. Once the message is over and the closing prayer is done, they are ready to go, even if the parents are not. We have all experienced the awkward times when we have completed our lesson, but no parents have arrived. This is what these games and activities are for—to fill that time productively with additional activities to keep the children's focus, allow them to have fun and further reinforce the message that they have heard.

WEEKLY ACTIVITY SHEETS – On the Resource CD, there are weekly activity sheets that can be printed and given to the children for extra points. Each sheet comes with games, puzzles, a coded message, and the weekly memory verse.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES – As this series was being developed, we often found some very helpful information on various web sites, in books or other sources. At the end of some of the lessons, we have tried to share any resources and links that we feel would be helpful for you. Since most information given is through the Internet, which is subject to change or removal, please let us know via e-mail at content@kidcolabs.com if you find anything we supplied to be inaccurate or unavailable.

... must eat 5 Oreos as fast as possible.
... each child must put on a number of piece of clothing then ring a bell to signal that they are done before taking it all off and moving to the next station.
• Cracker Sing-Along – each child must eat several saltines then whistle.
• Rope Jump – each child has to jump the rope 5 times, (even if it is poorly).
• Hula Hoop – each child need to make the hula hoop go around at least 8 times.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:
For additional optical illusions, you can go to the following site or do a internet search on "illusions" and "optical tricks".
www.exploratorium.edu – Offers a number of online illusions that you may want to try.
www.brainbashers.com – A collection of brain teasers, puzzles, riddles, games and optical illusions.

Hillsong's Kids Music DVD's cost between \$12-18 depending on where you purchase them. Currently they offer Supernatural, Jesus You're My Superhero and Super Strong God.
I found ordering them online was simple and convenient because the local bookstores did not stock them.

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