

Operation Light Force  
presents



# OPERATION: AGAPE

**40 Days With Jesus**



## **13-WEEK SERIES LEADER'S GUIDE**

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As a joint venture with Operation Light Force and  
in cooperation with Operation Agape: 40 Days with Jesus

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# SERIES OVERVIEW & LESSON SUMMARY

The overall goal of this series and of Operation Agape is to prepare children to do more for God—to share more of His love, to speak more freely of their salvation and to become more involved in the lives of people around them. This is after all what being a Christian is all about. As we look at the life of Jesus, we see the many places that He went and the many people whose lives were never the same. In many cases, it was not the miracles that made the biggest difference. They got attention, but in fact, it was the little things that changed people’s lives—eating with a known sinner, touching a leper, speaking to an “undesirable” and showing compassion and genuine concern for each individual.

As the children go through the training, they will receive solid teaching to prepare them for each of the weekly assignments. It’s not training in a traditional classroom sense, because children spend too much time in a classroom already. The training uses tools that keep their interest, channel their energy and promote interaction with each other and God.

## WEEKLY LESSON OVERVIEW

### PREPARATION WEEKS (4 weeks prior to series start)

We have tried to supply you with as many resources as possible to ensure the success of this series. We have also provided tips, outlines and suggestions to help you manage your time, organize your leaders and create an action plan to accomplish your goals long before the series starts. These are to be used at your discretion and have been provided as a guideline based on our past experience. Our hope is that you find all of the resources helpful and timesaving.

### WEEK 1 – CALLING FOR NEW AGENTS

As this is the first week of the series, the class time sets the tone for everything that is to come. The focus is on each child’s ability to make a difference. Not one is too small, too young or too inexperienced to make a difference. All a child needs to do is be available and ready to be used when God calls.

### WEEK 2 – KNOWING THE ENEMY

No hero has ever been born out of easy times. It takes opposition, difficulty and adversity to make a person rise above and become someone that stands for what they know is right. This week, the lesson focused on all of the things that will come against the mission. It’s not just the devil, but sometimes, it’s our own fears, feelings and doubts that stand in our way and prevent us from moving forward with God. Through this lesson, the children will learn that they are not alone; God is with them always to make sure they are victorious.

### WEEK 3 – THE DIFFERENCE FROM TRAINING

Just like firefighters, policemen, members of the coast guard or any branch of the armed services, each person that joins must be prepared for anything. This requires intense training and conditioning to make sure that when the time comes, they know exactly what to do, especially if it’s a matter of life or death. As Christians, we need to understand that it is no different. We need to be prepared for all that God has for us. So when He calls, we are ready to go and serve Him without a thought or worry of what to do.

### WEEK 4 – THE ART OF DISGUISE

Disguises are often thought of in a bad light. In truth, they are more than just things we put on at Halloween, or to do something illegal. Disguises are masks that hide our identity so that others are not aware of what we did. As agents of God, this is important. We are not looking for attention. We want our missions to allow people to see Jesus and not us. This means that we need to hide ourselves in Christ and put on His attitude. This is the only disguise we will ever need to truly serve God.

## **WEEK 5 – CONNECTION TO HEADQUARTERS**

Headquarters is an important concept in agent training. It is the source of all of our information, and our connection to an organization that is greater than any individual. This week the children will understand that prayer and the Bible are the direct line to the headquarters and these are all that is needed to accomplish any mission.

## **WEEK 6 – THE MISSION BEGINS (Week 1 of Assignments)**

This week starts the 40-day mission and the first day of assignments. As the children gather, the goal is to use the information they have learned over the past few weeks and the friendships they have established to help encourage each child to strive for excellence.

## **WEEK 7 – THE BASICS OF HERO TRAINING (Week 2 of Assignments)**

Heroes play an important role in our lives. They challenge us to become more and show us the way to greater achievements. During the lesson this week, the children will be challenged to try to become a hero in someone else's eyes. Each should think about words and deeds that show the kind of strength others can admire and should emulate.

## **WEEK 8 – ALL ABOUT YOU, JESUS (Week 3 of Assignments)**

Continuing our message from last week, a hero does not act out of selfish gain. He or she does it for the cause and for what is right. As we complete our weekly assignments, each should be done with our focus on Jesus and for His recognition, and not for anything that we will receive in return.

## **WEEK 9 – NO GLORY FOR ME (Week 4 of Assignments)**

Humility is a difficult concept for children, and even some adults. Although humility is considered the opposite of pride, there is actually something more required. True humility is recognizing that none of us can make it on our own. We need God and we need each other if we are really going to succeed.

## **WEEK 10 – SHARE THE LOVE (Week 5 of Assignments)**

Over the past weeks, the kids have been successfully making a difference in their community and with the people and places that they are most familiar with. This week, the objective is to help them see that there are communities just like theirs all over the world needing people just like them trying to make a difference. This is will be the focus of the lesson and for their prayers this week.

## **WEEK 11 – THE POWER OF BLESSING (Week 6 of Assignments)**

This week is preparation for the final week of assignments, bringing the mission to a close. Since the assignments end on Thursday, remind the children that this is the final stretch, and like in racing, it is in the final stretch that victory or defeat can come. Each child will need to persevere to the end so that God's love can be shared with all.

## **WEEK 12 – MISSION COMPLETE**

When the mission started, we took a look at Jesus sending out the twelve Disciples and all that they accomplished. This week, we revisit the story to think about how they must have felt and been changed by the experience as the children share some of their own experiences.

## **WEEK 13 – CASE CLOSED/ GRADUATION**

Although this week signifies the completion of Operation Agape series, it hopefully is only the start of new things to come in your children's ministry. With all your efforts (and the efforts of your leaders) put behind this series, there is no way that your ministry will be the same. This week, it is time to reward and recognize the children for all of their efforts by giving them a certificate of completion. It is also important to remember that now that the training is complete, God can still call at any time for a new assignment.

# STANDARD LESSON ELEMENTS

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.

**Operation Agape: 40 days with Jesus**, like every Kidco Labs series, has been written based on actual lesson that were taught in a classroom setting. It is not something that we think works, but we KNOW works. As you read through the lessons, it is important to realize the various elements that make up the core of the lesson. These are listed and summarized in the section below.

There is no perfect order or sequence of elements 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. Think about the focus for the week and what is the best way to emphasize it. Then think about the transitions between elements and how you go from one topic to another. It's really not that hard to do once you try it a few times.

As you are planning your class time, you will also want to think who would be best suited in that slot. We believe that it is 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 some of the burden off of ministry and helps prevent burnout.

There are other reasons as well. It reinforces to the children that all the leaders that do work together as a team and sets a good example for the children to follow. It shows that each leader is knowledgeable and capable of sharing God's love and truth—another good example to help set. And 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 Goal (for the leaders only)** – This is a summary of the overall lesson. Your goal should be that by the end of the time together, the message taught was clear, understood and received in a way that the children can share with others if asked.

*NOTE: I have even asked children just as parents were about to arrive to tell me what they learned to make sure I was successful in conveying the message.*

**Scripture References (for teachers and leaders)** – 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, this same verse is what will be memorized to earn additional points to complete their training.

**Opening Exercises** – This section is comprised of the greeting, the rules, announcements and the message from Headquarters. It is also the time to encourage the children on all their hard work and let them know anything significant about their mission.

**Message from Headquarters** – No agent training would be complete without secret messages from a hidden Headquarters. Each of these messages is meant to encourage the children, give important mission data and outline the training mission for the week. Each letter comes from the director himself.

**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** – Prayer is important but the children must have the right hearts and attitudes to focus on prayer needs. Make sure that the children are respectful during the sharing time. Also, you may want to record prayer needs on the sheets provided to keep track of requests and record God's faithfulness.

*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 committed the key verse 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 as object lessons 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.

**Teaching The Lesson** – This is the core focus of the class time. It is recommended that the children be back in their seats and remain attentive during this portion of the class.

*NOTE: Although I love to use some rather wild props for games, skits and activities, I make it a point to show God all my respect during this teaching time. It doesn't mean that I am somber or overly serious, but it does mean that what I say is to be taken as truth, not for fun! (I 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.

**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 email at [content@kidcolabs.com](mailto:content@kidcolabs.com) if you find anything we supplied to be inaccurate or unavailable.

**THE LESSON ELEMENTS  
ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS  
TO CONSTRUCT YOUR OWN  
TRAINING TIME.**

**EACH HAS BEEN DESIGNED  
TO FIT TOGETHER SO  
MAKING A LESSON PLAN  
IS AS EASY AS A-B-C!**

