

40 Days With Jesus

LESSON KEY VERSE

When Jesus called the Twelve together, He gave them power and authority to drive out demons and to cure diseases, and He sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. – Luke 9:1-2

LESSON KEY WORD

OPERATION = The Act of Operating

If you are operating something, it means that you are in control. With the missions starting this week what better way to start it all off than by talking about being in control of what you do. As an agent, the success of the mission is totally dependent on you knowing how to control yourself.

LESSON GOALS

This week, the kids will be on their own to accomplish their daily missions. One of the most important things that they will need to do is network with other believers during the time to encourage each other and work together. One thing that you can do as leaders is to help the children know where to meet with the others that go to their school or live in the same neighborhood. Have them all decide on a place and time to meet on Wednesday before they leave. If they keep each other accountable, it can help them ensure their mission's success this week.

THIS WEEK'S ASSIGNMENTS

- Sunday (Day 1) – Getting Started Day
- Monday (Day 2) – “Giants” Day
- Tuesday (Day 3) – Lighthouse Day
- Wednesday (Day 4) – SYATP (See You At The Point)
- Thursday (Day 5) – “Principal” Day
- Friday (Day 6) – “Forgiveness” Day
- Saturday (Day 7) – “Demolition” Day

OPENING EXERCISES

INTRODUCTION

This is the week that you have been building up to. It is the week where the children are finally going to start their missions. We have already covered all the basics that each child needs to be successful. They have learned that each child is capable of completing the mission if they set their mind and heart to it. They will understand that they will face some opposition—both from outside and from inside their own minds—but they can overcome if they hold to what each knows is true in the Bible.

They have been through the training, they understand the importance of their disguises—putting on Jesus so that others see Him instead of each of them—and we have made sure that they understand that in the field, each must maintain a connection to headquarters at all times so that they will know how to complete their mission.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Operation Agape Books for each child to take with them to complete their daily missions.

(Optional)

- Special mission pen to use to record mission results

ADDITIONAL VERSES

Matthew 22:37-38;
Matthew 28:19-20;
Acts 1:8 and
Colossians 3:23



ITEMS NEEDED:

For the *Opening Exercises* each week, the only thing that you will need is:

- a photocopy of the service order/ announcements
- Worship music with words for the kids to follow along
- Prize candy for one boy and one girl

LEADER NOTE:

More information about Praise & Worship resources is provided in the “Teachers Resources” in the front of this series.

Good morning agents. This is the morning that you have all been training for. This is the last briefing we have together. Tomorrow morning, you will be going directly to your mission report and starting on day 1. It’s hard to believe that the 6 weeks of basic agent training are over and it’s time for you to start your field work.

I want to personally tell you that Headquarters believes that each of you has what it takes to complete each and every mission with flying colors. There is no reason to be concerned. You will all do great.

THE RULES

We’ve gone over our rules for these training classes each week, and this week, once again, we want to make sure that everyone understands them. Who knows the first rule? (Ask for responses). You are correct. And the second rule? (Allow responses) Good. And who can tell me the third rule? (Allow responses) You are all on fire this week.

As always, we all need to say the last rule together. So let’s take a deep breath, then on the count of 3. Ready... breath in... 1... 2... 3. **HAVE FUN!** (*Shouted as loud and long as they can hold it.*) Awesome job.

Here are the agent training rules:

1. Sit up straight and tall.
2. Listen to whomever is speaking.
3. Respect others always.
4. HAVE FUN!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Okay agents, as we said before, you have done an incredible job in getting this far. Now we are finally at the time that we have trained hard for. It is time for Operation Agape to begin. Each day for the next 40 days, you will have a mission assignment to complete before the end of the day.

Then each week, on Sundays, we will meet back here to talk about the missions we’ve completed and receive additional instructions from Headquarters to prepare us for the next week. Remember to record what you did during each mission because next week, we will want to hear some of your field reports at the start of our briefings.

If you didn’t know, the teens and adults will also have similar missions to complete as well. We are all working together, so let’s make sure that we give our best and complete each mission with excellence.

Using the Lesson Planner form, fill in and read any additional announcements the children need to hear about what is going on in the church.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

As with each week, you may choose to do a different worship set or use different music if you choose. This week’s theme is about going into the world, sharing the light of Christ, and overcoming.

If you are using the Hillsongs Live Worship for Kids DVD *Jesus Is My Superhero*, we recommend that you use the following worship set. It will last about 10 minutes and includes:

- Alive
- Blessed
- Did You Know

OPENING PRAYER TIME

Allow the children a few minutes to share any prayer needs and praise reports of things that God is doing. Either write them down, commit them to memory or ask various children to pray for the needs when the time comes. This way every need is covered.

NOTE: If you wrote down requests from last week, you may also want to ask about these too and add them to this weeks prayers.

OFFERING LESSON

OBJECTIVE

This lesson geared at helping the children understand that great things don't always come all at once as one big thing. Usually, things happen as a bunch of little things that all come together.

LESSON

Guess what I have here? (Hold up one of the smaller Lego® pieces and allow responses) It's a lego piece. It's a very small lego piece but still it's a lego. If you look real close to it, you can say that it says lego right on the piece. Can I do a whole lot with this? (Allow responses) Not really. These pieces weren't created to be used along. Legos were created to be more fun when there are a bunch of them together. They are even better when they are not all the same.

With these pieces, name some things we could build. (Ask several of the children for what they would make) You know that every one of those is very possible. The truth is that it is all up to us what we do with these pieces and how we want to put them all together.

In some ways, these legos are just like all of you. There are times when you are alone you may feel very small. But when you come together, to a place like this church with others that are just like you, each one of you have a lot more fun.

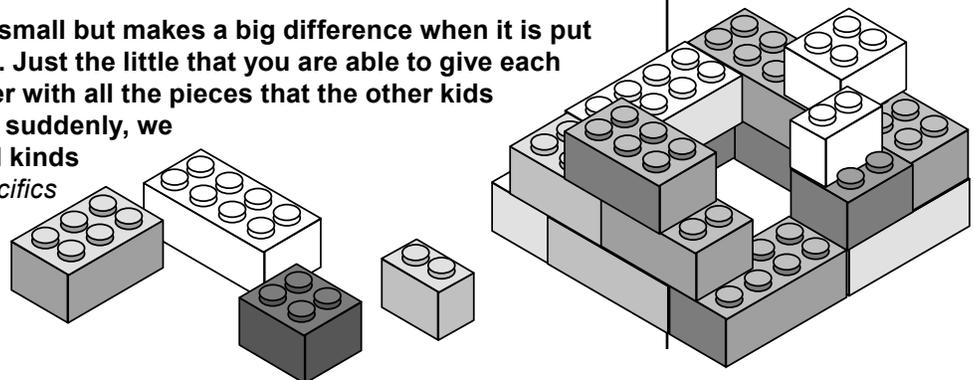
What is also very cool, is that just like the lego, each of you have God's fingerprints all over you. Each of you were created to be able to fit together into His plan and because each of you is a little different, God can fit different ones together with others to do different things as He sees fit.

Your mission this week is just part of what God wants to do. As you go through the next few weeks, remember that each day is just one piece of the whole. It was created to fit together with all the others to do a great work and make a big difference in your neighborhood and in our city.

Another thing that is very small but makes a big difference when it is put all together is our offering. Just the little that you are able to give each week fits perfectly together with all the pieces that the other kids around you are giving and suddenly, we have enough money for all kinds of things. (Name some specifics that the children in your church have contributed to) So now, let's give our best offering to God.

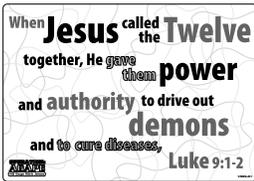
ITEMS NEEDED:

- a container of Legos (many different sizes and colors)



ITEMS NEEDED

- memory verse sheet copied or had written on several sheets colors of paper (one color for each team of 3-4 kids)



- scissors
- (optional) candy or small prizes for winning teams

ITEMS NEEDED

- certificates - printed and filled out for each child
- Operation Agape books for each child or family
- (optional) pens to fill out the "field guide"

MEMORY VERSE

OBJECTIVE

This game is focused on teamwork through competition as it helps the children also get a head start on this week's memory verse.

KEY VERSE

When Jesus called the Twelve together, He gave them power and authority to drive out demons and to cure diseases, and He sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. – Luke 9:1-2

LESSON PREPARATION

Before class, make a copy of each of the key verse sheets on different colors of copy paper, or hand write them on colored paper. Then cut them all into irregular shapes to create a puzzle. Mix all the pieces together so that all the colors are mixed.

Note: Try to make sure that there is something recognizable on each piece and that the pieces have a unique shape that is easy to determine how it fits with others for some of the younger children.

MEMORY VERSE LESSON

This week, Headquarters sent us a little bit of a mix up. All the pieces of our memory verse went through a shredder and all the pieces got mixed up together. It is our job to sort them out and put them together and figure out what our key verse is.

Divide the children into teams of 3-4 and assign them one of the colors. Place all the pieces on the floor face down and spread them around over an open area.

When I give the signal, each of you need to gather your colored pieces that work together to put them together. Once a team has their pieces all in place, all of you should stand up with their hands raised. Until everyone is done. We'll keep track of the order the teams finish.

Once all the teams have finished assembling the pieces, have the winning team read the verse aloud. Then have all the rest of the kids read it aloud several times as well. If you choose and time allows, you can play a few rounds of this game and award points to the teams that win, or give a small prize like a small piece of candy to each member of the winning teams.

TEACHING THE LESSON

TEACHER PREP

Since this is the week that each of the children are being sent out on the mission, the overall feel of the message is to evoke confidence that they are not alone. At the end of the lesson, you should have the certificates ready for each of the children to be given to them with their hand books and pens. For visitors, have a few extras and speak with the parents of the children at the end of the service to see if they want to be a part.



LESSON

This memory verse this week is very important because today is the day that we are sending you out on your first official assignments. All these weeks of training and preparing have hopefully shown you all that you need to know. Now the rest is totally up to you, but before we go any further, we want to look at just what it means to be sent out.

1- JESUS SENDS OUT THE TWELVE

As it says in this week's key verse, Jesus sent out the Twelve Disciples and told them to go with power and authority and to tell people about the Kingdom of God and of His love. And that is exactly what He did. He prayed over them and then He sent them out with a mission to go from town to town. They were supposed to tell the people about the love of God and pray for all the sick.

The coolest part is what happened when they obeyed. As they went from town to town, they saw any sick person that they prayed for got better. They saw that many people were just waiting to hear that God loved them and were so happy, and every time that the devil sent someone to stop them, they were able to cast out the devil.

When the Twelve returned, they were so excited about all that they had been able to do through the power and authority of God and in Jesus' name.

2- JESUS SENDS OUT THE SEVENTY-TWO

The thing that you may not realize is that the Twelve were not the only ones that Jesus sent out. There was another time that Jesus gathered a group of seventy-two together. He did the same thing with them that He did with the Twelve Disciples. He sent them out with power and authority to go to villages and towns in the area. He told them to pray for the sick, and to speak about God's love and His Kingdom. He told them to go two by two and that wherever they went and prayed, God would be there with them. And just like the Twelve, the same things happened.

People got healed. Many people were saved and gave their hearts back to God and their hearts were made like new because of the love and forgiveness of God. And when they returned, they were also so excited and had many stories of all that they had seen and done through the power and authority of God and the name of Jesus.

3- JESUS GIVES US THE COMMISSION

There was last time that Jesus sent people out. This last time was not long after He had been crucified, and resurrected. It was actually just before He went back to His Throne in Heaven. He had a large group of believers with Him and before He was taken up into the sky, He told the entire group, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." This is found in Matthew 28:18-20.

Right after he said that, He returned back into Heaven on a cloud and all the believers that were standing around were amazed. He had told them long before that in His name, they would be able to do even greater things than He did when He was on this earth. It is really an amazing thought.

Jesus told the Disciples, the group of seventy-two and then to a group of hundreds of believers that they need to go and tell others about the love of God, about forgiveness in Jesus' name and to pray for them and any who are sick so that they can get better. And they did exactly that. Do you know how I know? Because that is exactly how this church came to be. It all started because those believers took the mission and did what Jesus said.

As a result, God's word spread and people saw miracles happen. It started with a few, then more and more until nations started to be saved, rulers of nations had their hearts change, and people on every part of the world have heard about Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER TIME

Now it is your turn. We have certificates for each of you that show that you have completed your agent training and are now ready for field work. We also have your field guides that have your assignments for the coming weeks.

As we call your name, come up and receive your certificate and book, then return to your seat. Once everyone has their things, we want to pray for each of you so that Jesus can send you out with all His power and authority. And next week when you come back here, we will want to hear some of the stories of things that happened to you as you were doing your assignment.

Pass out the books and certificates and lead the children in a prayer of commitment to try to reach others.

Let's now pray for each of you. First of all, as agents, do you all promise to give your best to God and complete the assignments that you have been assigned? *(Allow responses)*

Do you all, as agents commit to praying for at least 3 people who don't have Jesus in their hearts? *(Allow responses)*

Are you as agents, willing to fast and pray for others so that they can know God's love, healing and peace? *(Allow responses)*

Are you, as agents, willing to give up anything that would stop you from completing the mission? *(Allow responses)*

Dear Lord, you have heard our commitment to you and we gladly accept this commission. We promise to do everything in our power to help those around us to see your love and forgiveness. We ask that you use us to be your hands to touch others, your mouth to speak to others and your heart that will give unconditional love to everyone that we meet.

As we start these 40 days, we ask that you help us to do all that will bring you glory. We ask this in Jesus Name.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES/GAMES

Since this is sort of a celebration of the start of the mission, there are two ways that you may choose to go with the close of the service. You may opt for serving cupcakes and punch and have a small party, or you can use balloons to play a few games to celebrate the completion of training and the start of the children's field service. The choice is totally up to you.

BALLOON SPELLING BEE

The object of this game is to see which team can spell the word first using balloons.

Note: If you are going to play multiple games, this one should be first. You can then use these balloons for other games

Preparation

You will need a trash bag and 26 smaller balloons with a single letter of the alphabet written on each balloon (one letter per balloon and no repeating letters). It is helpful, but not necessary if all the balloons for each team are one color. Once all the balloons are inflated and the letters are written on the balloons, place them inside the trash bags.

Game Instructions

The game is basically a relay race. Place the trash bag with the balloons at one end of an open area. Have the children line up as teams in a single file line at the other end of the area. On the signal, a child from each team will run to their team's bag and try to find one of the balloons with a letter on it that can be used to spell out the word. When he or she has one, she is to run back to the group, place the balloon on the floor near the head of the line and tag the next person in line. He or she will then try to find the next letter in the word.

Each team is to continue until they have all the letters in the word and it is spelled out on the floor. The first team to complete the word wins the round. Then place all the balloons back into the trash bags and mix them back in before starting another round.

BALLOON TWISTER

This game is a little more physical and can get a little loud—especially if a balloon is popped—but is a lot of fun.

Preparation

There is very little preparation required for this game. Just have colored balloons of various sizes and colors ready. The number of balloons depends on the size of the group. If you feel you need more for the game, just blow a few more up.

Game Instructions

Like the regular game of Twister, this game requires the children to place the body part on the proper colored balloon as it is called out. Start by spreading out the balloons and allow the children to find a place somewhere closeby.

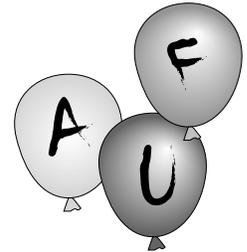
Rather than a spinning arrow like the board game—unless you have one from Twister available—you can use slips of paper that are tossed into a small container and randomly pulled out. I recommend using 2 containers—one for the balloon color and the other for body parts.

Once the color and part is called, for instance, right hand on green, the children need to find a green balloon and place their right hand on it. There is no limit to the number of children that are able to touch a balloon, but if a balloon pops, all the children touching that balloon are out of the competition.

Even though the game Twister produces a single winner, you can still use teams by awarding points to the last remaining team still playing. Award either points or a small prize, like a piece of candy to the winners of each round.

BALLOON SPELLING BEE ITEMS NEEDED

- 1 trash bag per team
- 26 small-sized colored balloons
- permanent black marker



BALLOON TWISTER ITEMS NEEDED

- balloons of various sizes and colors
- large open area free from chairs

Recommended colors are the same as Twister: Red, blue, yellow and green—like in the actual game—and you can add a few others, if you like.

WEEK 06

BALLOON TWISTER ITEMS NEEDED

- balloons of various sizes and colors
- large open area free from chairs

Optional—permanent markers and stickers to decorate the balloon animals.

BALLOONIMALS

This is another fun—and less noisy—activity with balloons. It allows the children to be as creative as they want as they take balloons and make their own balloon animals out of them.

PREPARATION NEEDED

This requires little to no preparation time before class.

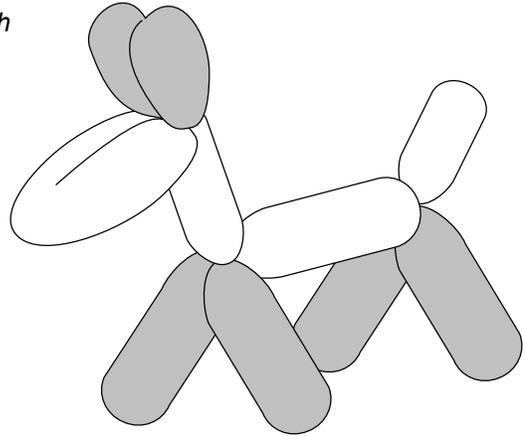
ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out several of the long thin balloons (uninflated) and arrange the children in groups of 3-4. Have the children work together to create their own ideas of balloon animals by twisting pieces together.

Remind the children that they will not want to blow the balloons up all the way if they are going to try to twist them together. Usually, you only want the balloon about half full of air.

NOTE: If you like you could show the children what happens if a balloon is too full by deliberately popping one. They will quickly see your point.

You can also supply the children with markers and stickers to decorate their creation if you like, however, you will probably need to give them permanent markers because normal water based markers will rub off everywhere.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

If you would like additional information about a church wide mission, please go to Operation Light Force main web site at:

www.operationlightforce.com

You will find all sorts of resources and information on the various outreaches as well as additional items that you can purchase at the online store.



Ever been stuck looking for a new game idea? Here are a few sites that might be able to help.

www.amazingmoms.com - This site offers ideas for both indoor and outdoor activities. These can really help out on for those special event services where child care is needed.

www.birthdaypartyideas.com - There are a lot of game and activity submissions by readers of the site.

www.todaysparents.com - good activities for groups and for families to use at home. It's a good resource of information as well to give to parents.

www.gameskidsplay.net - It's a basic site with a long list of game ideas. Many you may already know, but if you get creative, they can be adapted to fit many different themes..