

252 BASICS®

150 Bible stories + 36 virtues + 3 basic truths = 252 Basics

3 Basic Truths

“Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (Luke 2:52, NIV). So we want every kid to know and understand these three things: **I need to make the wise choice** (wisdom); **I can trust God no matter what** (faith); and **I should treat others the way I want to be treated** (friendship). All 252 Basics lessons focus on at least one of the three basic concept areas from this verse (wisdom, faith, and friendship) in addition to “traditional” concept areas (like God, Jesus, the Bible, the church, family, community, and self).

36 Virtues

“His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness ... For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:3,8, NIV). God loves us dearly and wants us to be imitators of Him (Ephesians 5:1). So He is at work in us to make us more like Him. As we become more like Him, He’ll use those qualities, or virtues, in us to change the world around us. That’s why 252 Basics content is organized into a different biblical virtue each month, a quality of God’s nature that He instills in His followers. Twelve different virtues each year, for a total of 36 biblical virtues.

150 Bible Stories

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 16-17, NIV). All Scripture is equally inspired, but not equally applicable. (For example, you probably wouldn’t tell first graders about David and Bathsheba!) Each lesson in 252 Basics revolves around one of about 150 Bible stories in the three-year cycle—what we consider the most relevant Bible stories for kindergarten through fifth grade.

About God’s plan for our salvation 🌸

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16, NIV). A simple explanation of the salvation message, based on John 3:16, is included in 252 Basics about every other month. It is presented in a clear, non-threatening way that fits naturally with the lesson.

Faith Skills

Every month that has a fifth week is a good opportunity to change gears, and so we do. Fifth weeks are typically dedicated to one of 5 Faith Skills we want every kid to master:

1. Navigate the Bible (survey and locate)
2. Personalize Scripture (memorize and apply)
3. Dialogue with God (public and private)
4. Articulate faith (share and defend)
5. Worship with your life (praise and give)

150 BIBLE STORIES • 36 VIRTUES • 3 BASIC TRUTHS

Group and Family Experiences for K-5th Grades



core virtue	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
SEPTEMBER 2009 • <i>WISDOM</i> is finding out what you should do and doing it.			
Wisdom	wisdom / God	Solomon asks for wisdom and gets it • 1 Kings 3:4-28	God wants to give you wisdom.
Wisdom	wisdom / God	the Queen of Sheba visits Solomon • 1 Kings 10:1-13	Wisdom is worth searching for.
Wisdom	wisdom / God	Solomon's unwise son • 2 Chronicles 10:1-19	To be wise, hang out with wise people.
Wisdom	wisdom / God	the benefits of wisdom • Proverbs 22:3	Wisdom is knowing AND doing.
OCTOBER 2009 • <i>INDIVIDUALITY</i> is discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference.			
Individuality	wisdom / self	Paul's letter to Philemon about Onesimus • Philemon 1:1,8-21	When you belong to God, you can make a difference. 🌻
Individuality	wisdom / self	Epaphroditus, a fellow worker • Philippians 2:25-30	When you take care of others, you can make a difference.
Individuality	wisdom / self	the story of Dorcas • Acts 9:36-42	When you use what you have to help others, you can make a difference.
Individuality	wisdom / self	one body, many parts • 1 Corinthians 12:14-21,25-27	When you do your part, you can make a difference.
NOVEMBER 2009 • <i>COOPERATION</i> is working together to do more than you can do alone.			
Cooperation	friendship / community	Nehemiah and the wall • Nehemiah 1:1-6; 2-4; 6:1-16	Doing the undoable takes more than me.
Cooperation	friendship / community	Joshua and the Amalekites • Exodus 17:8-13	Look for ways to help somebody succeed.
Cooperation	friendship / community	Jesus heals a paralyzed man • Luke 5:17-26	Friends who trust God work together to change lives.
Cooperation	friendship / community	building the tabernacle • Exodus 28; 35; 39	Work together to get God's work done.
Faith Skill:	worship (praise and give)	the fellowship of the believers • Acts 2:42-47	I can worship God anytime, anywhere, in many different ways.

Includes salvation message

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CHRISTMAS WEEK

core virtue	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
DECEMBER 2009 • <i>COMPASSION is caring enough to do something about someone else's need.</i>			
Compassion	faith / friendship / Jesus	Gabriel appears to Mary • Luke 1:26-38	God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?
Compassion	faith / friendship / Jesus	Jesus is born • Luke 2:1-7	God gave us the greatest gift. What will you give?
Compassion	faith / friendship / Jesus	shepherds visit Jesus • Luke 2:8-20	God gave us great news. Who will you tell?
Compassion	faith / friendship / Jesus	Wise Men visit Jesus • Matthew 2:1-12	God showed the world His love. How will you show the world?
JANUARY 2010 • <i>DISCIPLINE is doing what you need to do now so you can grow stronger.</i> • <i>This month also focuses on the 5 Faith Skills, one per week.</i>			
Discipline	wisdom / Jesus / self	Jesus in the temple • Luke 2:41-52	If you want to know God better, read His Book.
Discipline	wisdom / Jesus / self	Jesus tempted in the wilderness • Matthew 4:1-11	If you want to know God better, remember His words.
Discipline	wisdom / Jesus / self	disciples ask Jesus how to pray • Luke 11:1-4	If you want to know God better, talk to Him.
Discipline	wisdom / Jesus / self	Peter states who Jesus is • Matthew 16:13-17	If you want to know God better, talk about Him with your friends.
Discipline	wisdom / Jesus / self	the widow's mite • Mark 12:41-44	If you want to know God better, make Him more important than anything.
FEBRUARY 2010 • <i>HONOR is letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.</i>			
Honor	friendship / family / community	David and Goliath • 1 Samuel 17:1-58	Honor those who are overlooked.
Honor	friendship / family / community	David and Jonathan • 1 Samuel 18:1-4	Honor others more than yourself.
Honor	friendship / family / community	David and Absalom • 2 Samuel 15-17	Honor those who are over you.
Honor	friendship / family / community	David dances in honor of God • 2 Samuel 6:12b-22a	Honor God out LOUD.

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MARCH 2010 • <i>HONESTY is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.</i>			
Honesty	friendship / community	Joseph's brothers lie to Jacob • Genesis 37; 45	When you're not truthful, you hurt the people you should care about most.
Honesty	friendship / community	Haman's plot • Esther 3; 4:8b; 5:6-10; 7:1-6,9b-10	Lying to hurt someone else really hurts YOU.
Honesty	friendship / community	Jesus and Zacchaeus • Luke 19:1-10	Truthfulness builds friendships; dishonesty tears them down. 🌸
Honesty	friendship / community	Judas' dishonesty • John 12:3-6; Matthew 26 ; 27:1-5	You can lie so much you forget what matters.
APRIL 2010 • <i>FRIENDSHIP is spending time with someone you trust and enjoy.</i>			
EASTER Friendship	friendship / Jesus	on the road to Emmaus • Luke 24:13-35	A true friend will love you no matter what. 🌸
Friendship	friendship / Jesus	Jesus appears to Thomas • John 20:24-31	A true friend will help you believe. 🌸
Friendship	friendship / Jesus	breakfast with Jesus • John 21:1-14	A true friend will make time for you.
Friendship	friendship / Jesus	Jesus ascends to heaven • Acts 1:3,8-11; Matthew 28:16-20	A true friend will always be your friend. 🌸
MAY 2010 • <i>PATIENCE is waiting until later for what you want now.</i>			
Patience	faith / self	Esau and the birthright • Genesis 25:24-34	If you don't wait, it could cost you.
Patience	faith / self	the golden calf • Exodus 19:2-8; 32:1-7,15-24,30-34	Don't get tired of doing the right thing.
Patience	faith / self	the fall of Jericho • Joshua 3:1-14; 6:1-20	Don't miss out because you think you can't wait.
Patience	faith / self	a principle of patience • Proverbs 15:18	If you don't wait, it could hurt others.
Faith Skill:	prayer (public and private)	some principles about prayer • James 5:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Romans 8:26	Take prayer out of the box.

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JUNE 2010 • <i>RESPONSIBILITY</i> is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.			
Responsibility	wisdom / God / community	in the beginning • Genesis 1:27-28	What in the world are you doing to take care of what God made?
Responsibility	wisdom / God / community	the parable of the talents • Matthew 25:14-29	What in the world are you doing to use what God gave you?
Responsibility	wisdom / God / community	words matter, a principle • Ephesians 4:29	What in the world are you doing to encourage others with your words?
Responsibility	wisdom / God / community	Jesus says to be light • Matthew 5:14-16	What in the world are you doing to show others God's goodness?
JULY 2010 • <i>SERVICE</i> is lending a hand to help someone else.			
Service	friendship / God / community	Jesus says to go the extra mile • Matthew 5:41	What in the world are you doing that's more than you have to do? 🌸
Service	friendship / God / community	the parable of the good Samaritan • Luke 10:30-37	What in the world are you doing to help someone others won't help? 🌸
Service	friendship / God / community	Jesus washes the disciples' feet • John 13:1-17	What in the world are you doing to put others first? 🌸
Service	friendship / God / community	Jesus teaches about giving to the needy • Matthew 6:1-4	What in the world are you doing that only God knows?
AUGUST 2010 • <i>PEACE</i> is proving that you care more about others than winning an argument.			
Peace	friendship / family	a principle of peace • Proverbs 17:14	The best way to stop a fight is never to start one.
Peace	friendship / family	Isaac's wells • Genesis 26:16-22,26-31	Making peace doesn't make you weak.
Peace	friendship / family	Jacob and Esau meet again • Genesis 27; 32; 33	It's better to let go than to get even.
Peace	friendship / family	Abigail intervenes • 1 Samuel 25:16-35	Just because you didn't start a fight doesn't mean you can't stop it.
Faith Skill:	memorize and apply Scripture	think about admirable things • Philippians 4:8	Think about what God says, and it'll change you.

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