

DAY 1: ONE GOD, ONE TEAM

THEME BIBLE VERSE

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were yet still sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

YOUNGER KIDS

- 4 Square, Drawing Chalk, Simon Says
- Big Ball

Requires volleyball net and large beach ball.

Divide the kids into two teams and they'll simply hit the ball back and forth. Similar to volleyball.

- Trinity

This is a different spin on the game of tag. One person is "it" like normal. The game is called Trinity because if 3 kids can hold hands and form a triangle before one of them is tagged, then they are safe. They are only allowed to hold hands for a designated time and then you can blow a whistle to make them separate. Once someone is tagged, then they are it and the game continues.

OLDER KIDS

- Basketball, Volleyball, 9 Square

BIBLE TRUTHS

We were created in God's image.

God is perfect.

Our sin separates us from God.

God loves us so much, that He provides a way back into relationship with Him.

SONGS (10 MINUTES)

He Has Won (Elevation Church Kids) Alive (Hillsong Young & Free) My Lighthouse (Rend Collective)

MEMORY VERSE

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." - Genesis 1:1

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 1:31; Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 3; Romans 6:23

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

How many of you have ever been on some sort of team? A team is a group of players forming one side in a competitive game or sport. Leader gives an example of a time when he played on a team. Leader will divide the children up into teams to compete against each other in a game of tug of war. If we had to compete all by ourselves, would we be more or less powerful than if we competed on a team? Today, we're going to talk about another kind of team!

LESSON (15 MINUTES)

What sports team is your favorite? Why? Where are they from? Let's see how many you can guess correctly...where are the Bulls from (Chicago), Braves (Atlanta), Saints (New Orleans), and the Ice Flyers (Pensacola). All of these teams are from somewhere. Have you ever wondered where you came from? Well, the Bible answers that question!

In Genesis 1:1 it says, *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* What does the word "create" mean? The word "create" means to make something new. God is the creator of all things! What are some things that God created? He made the sun, moon, stars, plants, animals... God created everything!

In Genesis 1:26-27, it says that we are God's very special creation. **"Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."** We are created in the image of God. An image is a physical likeness or representation of something. What does it mean to be made in His image? *Give each child a piece of aluminum foil big enough to cover their face. Ask them each to place the foil on their face and create a mold by pressing the foil to their face. If they wear glasses, a hat, earrings or other peculiar identifiable items, ask them to leave them on during the mold making process. (Optional: With a marker put the owner's name on the inside of each piece. Place the masks in random order in front of the group. Have the children try to match the face with the mask.*)

You've made an impression of your face, but the foil isn't really you, is it? It looks like you, but it's not you. It's just an impression (image) of who you are. God made us to be a reflection of who He is! We are created in God's image to reflect his light in our lives. Our lives are molded to Him and we reflect Him in our actions and thoughts. The Bible also teaches that God is good. He is perfect! So, everything He made was good! In Genesis 1:31, it says, **"God saw everything He had made. And it was very good."** What do you think was God's greatest creation? Look around, everyone you see is special because God made them! And no matter what they look like or who they are, they were created in God's image!

God created Adam and Eve to be on His team, but something sad happened. Do you know what happened? "The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die. One day, a snake came to the garden. The snake was really God's enemy, Satan. Satan told Eve, "You can eat the fruit from the special tree." Eve listened to Satan. She looked at the fruit on that tree. She picked it. She bit into it. She gave some to Adam. Adam ate it, too. As soon as Adam and Eve ate that fruit, they knew they had done wrong. They felt sad. They ran away and hid. God called, "Adam, where are you? Adam said, "I was hiding. I was afraid." Why was Adam afraid? Adam and Eve had disobeyed. God told them they must leave the garden. But, God never stopped loving them. (Genesis 2:15-17, 3) What did Adam and Eve do wrong? Adam and Eve sinned when they disobeyed God. What is sin? Sin is anything we think, do, or say that doesn't please God. What are some examples of sin? The terrible thing about sin is that it separated Adam and Eve from God. They could no longer be on His team because God is perfect! The Bible says in Romans 6:23, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Because of our sin, we all are separated from God. We can't be on His team because of our sin. The Bible says that there's nothing that we can do to get ourselves back on God's team. God sent a way so we can be part of His team again and we will talk about that tomorrow!

APPLICATION

- 1. What is something you've wanted, but someone said you couldn't have?
- 2. Why did God punish Adam and Eve? What was their punishment?
- 3. Have you ever been punished for breaking a rule?

GAMES (20 MINUTES)

YOUNGER KIDS (20 MINUTES)

- Elephant Stampede

You'll need a Bible and 1 pool noodle that's been cut in half.

Choose 2 kids to be the Elephant and give them each 1 of the noodle pieces. Say: We'll work as a team in this game. Our Elephant will chase everyone else and try to tag you with a noodle. If you're tagged, you become part of the Elephant by holding hands with the person who just tagged you with a noodle. The person who tagged you will hand you the noodle piece, and you'll work with the rest of the Elephant to tag others, handing off the noodle piece to the person you tag. The object is to be the last person tagged. Check for understanding; then let kids play. Afterward, ask: Explain what you enjoyed more trying to escape being tagged or being part of the Elephant. What did you do to work as a team in this game? What do you like or not like about working with a team? What are the benefits of working as a team? What adjustments can you make to be a team player?

- Phone Line

Put the children in a line shoulder to shoulder with a little space in between. Whisper an easy scripture verse into the ear of the first child. They then whisper the same verse to the next child and so on. Translation will get lost along the way! The bigger the line, the more hilarious the end will probably be. You never know what the last kid will say! (Verse will be Genesis 1:1)

OLDER KIDS (20 MINUTES)

- The Overflow Challenge

Divide the kids into 2 teams making 2 lines. Place 2 buckets of water with a cup in each bucket in front of the 2 lines. Then place another 2 buckets of water that is half to 3 quarters full approximately 10 yards from the lines. In those buckets place a ping pong ball in each bucket. The objective of the game is to overflow the bucket pushing the ping pong ball out of the bucket. Talking Point: What was it like working as a team? Is there anyway to make it better? How can we apply this to what we've learned today? God created us to be a team for Him. Everyone has special things about them. However, we can do so much more when we work with others. All throughout the Bible, God uses people to do His Will. Imagine the cup when we first started is you, empty and doesn't have much purpose. However, imagine the bucket of water will never run dry and is like God, full of life and love. We can do what God has called us to do when He is the one that pours into us! He sustains us and gives us the only life worth living.

- Fruit ER

Divide into small groups and give each group a banana, cutting board and plastic knife. Instruct them to cut the banana into 4 or 5 pieces but don't tell participants what is next. Then hand out more supplies: pins, floss, tape, toothpicks, large plastic needles, etc. The goal is to reassemble the banana so the group can pick it up and present it to the other students. This is a good game to illustrate how some things are hard to put back together — broken trust, fragile relationships, etc. (Incorporate a blindfold for the person cutting (the banana) (maybe relate to Romans 12:4-5 // each part on a banana has a certain function, the stem, each peel, the inside, and the butt end. The teens working together will be acting as Christ and the banana is the body in which the pieces are us. The different parts of the banana illustrate different people with different gifts and through Christ we are one body. He makes us one.

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DAY 2: ONE MESSAGE, ONE TEAM

THEME BIBLE VERSE

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were yet still sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

YOUNGER KIDS

- 4 Square, Drawing Chalk, Simon Says
- Big Ball

Requires volleyball net and large beach ball.

Divide the kids into two teams and they'll simply hit the ball back and forth. Similar to volleyball.

- Trinity

This is a different spin on the game of tag. One person is "it" like normal. The game is called Trinity because if 3 kids can hold hands and form a triangle before one of them is tagged, then they are safe. They are only allowed to hold hands for a designated time and then you can blow a whistle to make them separate. Once someone is tagged, then they are it and the game continues.

OLDER KIDS

- Basketball, Volleyball, 9 Square

BIBLE TRUTHS

We must admit that we are sinners. We must believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. When we invite Him to come into our life, He washes away all of our sins.

SONGS (10 MINUTES)

He Has Won (Elevation Church Kids) Alive (Hillsong Young & Free) My Lighthouse (Rend Collective)

MEMORY VERSE

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were yet still sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

Yesterday, we talked about sin! What is sin? One of the definitions of sin is to **miss the mark of God's perfection**. (If you had a bow and arrow and were shooting for a bull's-eye, and you missedthat would be the picture of what the word "sin" means.) God is perfect and we aren't, which means we cannot get to God by our good works. Adam and Eve sinned when they disobeyed God. **And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."** (Genesis 2:16) What happened to Adam and Eve after they disobeyed God? Our sin separates us from God, but God provided a way for us to have a relationship with Him!

Let's try a little experiment!

Supplies: glass bottle with smaller opening at the top, water balloon, straw, lighter, piece of paper

Fill the water balloon a little larger than the opening of the jar. Then, rub a little water around the rim of the bottle. Tell the kids that there is a way for the balloon to get stuck in the jar. While you light a small strip of paper on fire and drop it in the bottle, explain to them that the fire represents our sin. Set the water balloon on top of the jar. Explain that the balloon represents us. The water balloon will get sucked into the jar. How do we get the water balloon out? Have someone try to pull it out. Explain to them that when we sin, we can't get ourselves out! Add the straw to the bottle. Explain that the straw represents Jesus, He provides the way out! While the straw is in the bottle, pull the balloon out.

Today, we are going to talk about how Jesus provided a way out, so that we can have a relationship with Him!

SCRIPTURE

Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 John 1:9; Acts 16:31; Psalm 51:7; 2 Corinthians 5:17; John 14:1-3; John 3:16

LESSON (15 MINUTES)

During this time, you will tell the story of the Gospel while making Salvation bracelets. Hand each child a packet of beads.

BLACK

The black bead represents our sins. Sin makes it impossible to have a relationship with God. The Bible says in Romans 3:23, *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* That is the bad news! Everyone is guilty of sin and must pay for their sin! What is the cost of our sin? Romans 6:23 says, *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* There is no way we can pay for our sins because it's too much! But, guess who paid the price already? Jesus made it so that we don't have to pay for our own sins.

RED

The red bead represents the blood of Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins. It says in Romans 5:8, **"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were yet still sinners, Christ died for us."** Why did Jesus die for us? Because of His great love for us! He died to take our place. He paid the price for our sin! When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment that we deserved! This is called GRACE! What is grace? Grace is something that we haven't earned and don't deserve. Let's say that you are playing baseball with your best friend. You hit the ball so hard that it shatters your neighbor's window. Your neighbor tells you that you'll have to pay for the broken window. You don't have the money to pay to fix it! Your best friend says, "I will GIVE you the money to fix the window!" Did you do anything to earn the money? Did you deserve the money? No, it was a free gift! In Ephesians 2:8-9 it says, **"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast."** God gave us a free gift, and that gift was His Son, Jesus!

WHITE

The white bead reminds us that because Jesus died on the cross and took the punishment for our sins...our hearts can now be made clean. But, the story didn't end there! Jesus rose from the dead 3 days later...He is alive! Jesus rising from the dead proves that He has power over sin and death! We can have a relationship with God and will one day be with Him in heaven if we:

- Admit that we have sinned and ask God to forgive us. What does it mean to ask for forgiveness? It means that we are asking Him to erase our wrongs (sins). In 1 John 1:9 it says that, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*
- Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. In Acts 16:31 it says, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."* When we believe in Jesus, God comes to dwell inside of us, and gives us the power to live a whole new life on His team!
- Invite Jesus into our lives to help us turn away from sin. When we invite Him into our life, He washes away all our sin and makes us white as snow (Psalm 51:7). When you believe in Jesus, you become a whole new person! In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold the new has come."* All of our sin is gone and we are given new life. Isn't it amazing!

YELLOW

Yellow reminds us of heaven. The most wonderful thing about heaven is that it is God's home. God loves us and wants us all to be with Him in heaven. Jesus has gone to prepare a wonderful place for those who choose to accept Him. (John 14:1-3) **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."** (John 3:16) God loved us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life! He never sinned! Because of Jesus, we can have eternal life in heaven with Him. Eternal life means never-ending life. The Bible tells us that our citizenship belongs to heaven.

GREEN

Green reminds us that it is important to grow in our relationship with Him. Plants need three basic things to grow: sunshine, rain, and good soil. Well, in order for us to grow as Christians (those who believe in Him), we need to spend time with Him, read the Bible, and spend time with other believers.

APPLICATION

- 1. How does sin affect our relationship with God?
- 2. Why did Jesus die on the cross?
- 3. What happened to Jesus after He died?
- 4. What does it mean to trust in Jesus?
- 5. How do you know if you're on God's team?

GAMES (20 MINUTES)

YOUNGER KIDS

- All Together

This is a fun game where you start out with 2 kids sitting back to back with their arms interlocked. Have them stand up together, which can be difficult. Have them sit back down again and add 2 more kids and repeat them. Do this until the whole class is interlocked. It's hilarious watching the bigger groups do this, but it teaches teamwork to them. Talking point: Like the body of Christ or team, we may look different but we are united in Christ. When we stand together, we are stronger together. We have different roles but each person is special, important, and needed. Say someone falls down and needs help getting back up, the body of Christ or team can help pick that person back up.

- Tarp Ball

You'll need 2 really big tarps or around that size and a ball (kickball). Cut different size holes in the tarp and make the smallest hole the same size as the kickball. Make other holes. Each hole will be worth a certain amount of points. The smaller the hole the more points. Have 2 teams compete against each other for two 5-minute rounds. Most points win. Have a referee watching each team. Talking point: Do you guys think I could get the ball in the hole all by myself? (no) If you said yes, thank you for having faith in me, but unfortunately I can't. I need my team to come and help me! (Have the kids come and help). Doing things on a team is so much better and easier than doing things by yourselves. Yesterday we spoke about how we have talents from the Lord, and today we are seeing the importance of being a part of a team. The body of Christ is the best team to be on because God fills us up so we can do His will and we don't need to depend on our own strength.

OLDER KIDS

- Tarp Ball

See explanation above.

- Biggest Fan

Everyone partners up and gets ready to play rock, paper, and scissors. If there is an odd number, let them know they have qualified to compete in the next round! Have the participants play until one is the winner, but here's the catch, whoever loses now cheers for the winner! The winner now goes to find another winner and they face off. The players that lost will now cheer for the winner. This continues on until it comes down to 1 person and everyone ends up cheering for the final person. Talking Point: Part of being a team is rooting for your teammates even when you're out.

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DAY 3: ONE MISSION, ONE TEAM

THEME BIBLE VERSE

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were yet still sinners, Christ died for us." - Romans 5:8

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

YOUNGER KIDS

- 4 Square, Drawing Chalk, Simon Says
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OLDER KIDS

- Basketball, Volleyball, 9 square

BIBLE TRUTHS

Jesus gave His disciples special instructions. We can share the "Good News" with others.

SONGS (10 MINUTES)

He Has Won (Elevation Church Kids) Alive (Hillsong Young & Free) My Lighthouse (Rend Collective)

MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." - Matthew 28:19

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28: 19-20; 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Timothy 4:12

LESSON (15 MINUTES)

After Jesus died and rose from the dead, He knew that His time to return to Heaven was getting close. The disciples had spent the last 3 years with Jesus, and now Jesus was about to give them some very important final instructions. What is a disciple? A disciple is someone who follows Jesus. Imagine if you had spent 3 years with Jesus, and He was getting ready to leave you! What kind of instructions would He give you?

Let's read Matthew 28:19-20 to find out His special instructions for His team! It says, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." The mission of God's team is to share the "Good News" of Jesus with others that you know! This happens through "knowing, growing, and showing." As we know Jesus, He helps us to grow in our relationship with Him. Then He helps us to show Him to others. There's a grandmother in the Bible, Lois, who was a great example! Does anyone have a really cool grandmother? What do you love about your grandmother? Grandma Lois loved Jesus so much that she wanted to tell others about Him. She shared the Gospel with her daughter, Eunice! What does the word "Gospel" mean? It means "Good News"! Have you ever been so excited about something that you wanted to tell everyone your good news? Can you guess what happened to Eunice? Eunice also became a follower of Jesus just like her mom! So, she shared the "Good News" with her son, Timothy! Because of one grandmother's faith, Timothy became a disciple of Jesus! There is a book in the Bible named after Timothy! In 2 Timothy 1:5 it says, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you." Do you see the way that 1 person sharing Jesus can change the world? Timothy is a great example to us because even though he was young, God used Timothy in amazing ways. Although Timothy was young, God told him that he could still be an important part of God's team. In 1 Timothy 4:12 it says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity." Guys, you are never too young to live for God! Use your life for the mission of His team! God has a part for each of us to play in order to fulfill the mission of His team! Each of us is called to tell others the "Good News" of Jesus. What is the "Good News"? Jesus died for our sins, and rose from the grave, so that we could be made new!

APPLICATION

- 1. What are some ways that you can daily have a relationship with Jesus?
- 2. What is the mission of God's team?
- 3. How can you tell others about Jesus?
- 4. Who's one person that needs to know about Jesus? (Pray for this person)

GAMES (20 MINUTES)

YOUNGER KIDS

- Mystery Maze

Put obstacles (cardboard boxes and such) all over the room to make a maze. Blindfold a child and scatter the other kids all over the room. The 1 blindfolded needs to listen to the kids yelling directions at them about which way to go. The goal is to get the child who is blindfolded to the end of the maze without touching any obstacles. Move slowly on this one! Talking Point: Without help from the team you can't complete the task. Part of our role in being in the family of God is to help and encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ.

- The Overflow Challenge

Divide the kids into 2 teams making 2 lines. Place 2 buckets of water with a cup in each bucket in front of the 2 lines. Then place another 2 buckets of water that is half to 3 quarters full approximately 10 yards from the lines. In those buckets place a ping pong ball in each bucket. The objective of the game is to overflow the bucket, pushing the ping pong ball out of the bucket. Talking Point: What was it like working as a team? Is there anyway to make it better? How can we apply this to what we've learned today? God created us to be a team for Him. Everyone has special things about them. However, we can do so much more when we work with others. All throughout the Bible, God uses people to do His Will. Imagine the cup when we first started is you, empty and doesn't have much purpose. However, imagine the bucket of water will never run dry and is like God, full of life and love. We can do what God has called us to do when He is the one that pours into us! He sustains us and gives us the only life worth living.

OLDER KIDS

- The Cup Game

It is recommended that the leaders demonstrate how to play the game beforehand. Everyone partners up and the team leaders will give a cup to everyone. If there is an odd number, let them know they have qualified to compete in the next round! This game works like Simon says. There will be one person who calls out different body parts (head, shoulders, knees, toes, etc), and the partners will have to touch what the leader calls out. Once the leader yells, "CUP" the partners will both reach and try to grab the cup, whoever gets the cup wins. Whoever loses now cheers for the winner! The winner now goes to find another winner and they face off. They will stack cups once they find their new partner. Whoever wins is now the person the people who lost will cheer for. This continues on until it comes down to one person and everyone ends up cheering for the final person.

- 52 Card Pick Up

Spread students around the outside of a room, and throw a pack of playing cards all over the floor. Wrap 5 or more volunteers (depending on how big the room is) with duct tape 6 or more times around, with the sticky side out (arms taped down). Blow a whistle that signals participants can get on the ground and roll around, trying to pick up as many cards as possible in a given amount of time. Once time elapses, have students examine their cards. Assign each card a Bible verse and ask students to read aloud the verses that match their cards. Talking points: Like any team, you will have a goal that you are trying to achieve. In soccer you may try to win the game or make it to the championship. Thankfully, God has already won the ultimate battle over sin and death! Through Christ we have freedom and life because He paid the price for our sin, but He rose 3 days later, showing all of mankind that God has power over sin and death! Knowing God's Word is extremely important for our walk as a disciple of Christ in order to combat against lies with the truth. The world may say that you don't have any worth, but Christ declared you priceless. Who can help remind you of this truth? Your team and the Holy Spirit. We need God and each other.

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