HOW TO USE THIS CREW LEADER GUIDE

LEADER BIBLE STUDY (BEFORE YOU LEAD)
Read this page to understand the Bible Story our Crew Kids will be learning today.

INTRODUCE THE STORY (10-15 mins.)
At the start of group time the Activity Page will introduce your group to the Bible story. After your group completes their Activity Page, lead your group in the Session Starter activity provided.

TEACH THE STORY (Large Group Time)
Your group will join with the other small groups for Large Group time, where the Bible Story will be taught by our Large Group leader(s).

APPLY THE STORY (5-15 mins.)
Using the Key Passage Activity and the Discussion & Bible Skills, help your group better understand and apply the Bible Story.

ACTIVITY (10 mins.)
Utilize the Activity to lead your group in. Be sure to SAY the teaching point associated with the Activity.

REFLECTION & PRAYER (5 mins.)
Utilize the Reflection questions to help your group think about and discuss what they learned today. Pray together as a group before pick up/ check out.
New Life in Jesus

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Colossians 2–3

**STORY POINT:** Jesus gives new life to people who trust in Him.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Colossians 1:18

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why does the church exist? The church exists to glorify God by worshiping Him, showing His love, and telling others about Jesus.

**LEADER Bible Study**

Paul wrote his letter to the Colossians while he was imprisoned in Rome. At this point, Paul had not yet visited the church at Colossae. The church was established by Epaphras, who reported to Paul that the church was facing troubles with false teachers. Paul wanted to put an end to the false teaching and remind the believers of who Jesus really is. Key to this letter is Paul’s teaching about how the gospel affects how we live.

As you teach kids from Colossians 2–3, focus on some of the main points Paul makes. First, God changes us when we trust in Jesus. The Bible describes us apart from Jesus as “enemies of God” (Rom. 5:10) and “dead” in our sins (Eph. 2:1). Jesus rescued us from sin and death by dying on the cross and rising again. Jesus gives new life to people who trust in Him.

Second, following Jesus means living for Him. Jesus is our reason for living, and He gives us power to live in a way that honors Him. Jesus adopts us into His family and makes us new! We respond to the good news of the gospel by submitting to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Finally, Jesus calls us to turn away from our sinful ways and live in a way that honors Him. Paul contrasts an earthly way of thinking with a godly way of thinking. The old, sinful way of living (the “old self”) is characterized by anger, wrath, hatred, lies, and filthy language. Paul wrote that living for Jesus means putting away the evil, selfish ways of the world and living like Jesus by loving God and loving others.

In Jesus, we have power to live in a new, godly way. This way (the “new self”) is marked by compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and love. Paul says believers should “put on” these things. As we grow in this new way of living, God is making us more like His Son.

**Christ Connection:** God changes us when we trust in Jesus. He adopts us into His family and makes us new! Jesus calls us to turn away from our sinful ways and live in a way that honors Him.
Curriculum for Crew Grades 2nd-5th

Small Group Opening - Introduce THE STORY

Welcome Time
Welcome kids as they arrive.
Fill out attendance sheet.
During this portion of group time, look for opportunities to get to know your group. Ask them questions about their week, school, etc.

Prompt kids to share about a time they tried something new, like a sport or a hobby. Was it easy or hard, and did they have to practice to get better?

Activity page (5 minutes)
Invite kids to complete “Spot It!” on the activity page.
Say • What are these people doing in the picture? What are some words you would use to describe them? In today’s Bible story, we are going to learn how Jesus changes our lives when we trust in Him.

Session starter (10 minutes)
Put on, put off
Direct the kids to list all the items a person would need to “put on” if they were skiing. Be as specific as possible. Write the list on the dry erase board. Then ask a volunteer to cross out the items the skier would need to “put off” when she was done and ready to go inside. Repeat with other roles such as scuba divers, firefighters, surgeons, and so forth.
Say • For these people to accomplish their tasks, they need to put on very specific gear. As we look at our Bible story today, we will learn about things we need to “put on” in our life and other things we need to “put off” so that we can accomplish the task Jesus has planned for us.

Test your strength
Tip: Adjust challenges based on kids’ attire and abilities.
Choose several physical and endurance challenges for the kids to complete. You may choose to recognize the winner of each category. Consider these options:
    most push-ups
    most sit-ups
    highest jump (mark on the wall how high kids jump)
    longest jump (mark on the floor how far kids jump)
    time kids can balance on one leg
    time it takes to carry a heavy object across the room
Say • These challenges tested your physical strength and endurance. Some were easy for you and some were harder. While it’s good to be strong in body, the Bible tells us it’s more important to be strong in your faith. Listen closely to our Bible story today to find out how to become stronger in your faith.

Transition to Large Group - Teach THE STORY
Dismiss to Small Groups
Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus!

Small Group Leader - Apply THE STORY

Key passage activity (5 minutes)
Before the session, turn several cups upside down. Then write one or two words of the key passage on each cup. Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Colossians 1:18 together. Challenge kids to stack the cups in a pyramid shape so that the first word is on top and the rest of the words are in order moving from left to right on each row. Point out that kids will need to work backwards, building the bottom row with the last words of the key passage. If your groups is large, prepare multiple sets of cups.

Say  • Paul tells us to build our lives on Jesus. So we’re going to practice our key passage by testing your building abilities. Let’s see how quickly you can put the verse in order and build the tallest structure possible, keeping the verse in order.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)
Say  • It is believed that Paul wrote this letter to Colossae while he was in prison. We don’t know if Paul actually visited Colossae. Colossians 1:7 says the Colossians learned about Jesus from Epaphras, who most likely learned from Paul while Paul was in Ephesus. Later, Epaphras visited Paul in prison and told him about the church in Colossae.
Point out the location of Colossae (E7) on the New Testament Mediterranean Map. Show how it is located in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey).
Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:
- Why did Paul write this letter to the Colossians? Help kids recognize Paul wanted to encourage the church and make sure they had a complete understanding of Jesus.
  (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Col. 2:2-3.)
- How did Paul want the people to live their lives? Help kids recognize that everything we do should be done in the name of Jesus.
  (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Col. 3:17.)
- How does Jesus want us to live our lives today? Help kids recognize that Jesus wants us to live in Him through faith.
  (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Col. 2:6-7.)
Say  • Jesus gives new life to people who trust Him. Our lives should honor Him and point other people to Him.
Activity choice (10 minutes)

Encouraging words

Say • Paul wrote letters to the churches to teach them and to encourage them. He told them that Jesus gives new life to people who trust in Him. These days, most people tend to communicate electronically. Sometimes it’s hard to keep up with special messages that way.

Let’s take a few minutes and write out words of encouragement on a card or in a letter to a church pastor/leader/staff member from a list provided. Be sure to collect the cards afterwards so they can be handed out! What are some encouraging things we can write?

Allow kids to share ideas. You may even write key words on a dry erase board or large sheet of paper to help kids remember what to write. Distribute cards or stationery to the kids. If needed, help kids with spelling or sentence structure. Brainstorm fun ways to deliver their encouraging words to their chosen person.

When finished and have some extra time...

Focus on Jesus

Give each kid a copy of the Jesus Optical Illusion Card. Have them take markers or crayons to color the different shaped boxes staying in the lines as best they can. Once finished have them hold up their paper and see if they can see what it says. JESUS! Have them fold the paper in half (hotdog length) so the paper can stand.

Say • Paul reminded believers that they needed to focus on Jesus, setting their minds on things above. We set our minds on things above when we study our Bibles, pray, and learn about God with the church community. When we have faith in Jesus, living like Him and obeying Him becomes easier the more we focus on Him.

Reflection and Prayer (5 minutes)

Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey?
  - How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember?
  - How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

PRAY, asking Jesus to show kids what they need to change so that people around them will see more of Jesus in them.

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.