

Introduction

<u>our goals</u>

To help churched and unchurched kids:

- enter into a personal relationship with Jesus and develop confidence in using the Bible to know who God is and how to apply what the Bible says to form strong, healthy relationships.
- grow in all aspects of life-physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual.

SO WHY BOLT?

Discipling a young person is arguably the single most important ministry a church can undertake. We know that children are the church's future. But they are also our present—and the church must act today to reach them for Christ. Various studies indicate that more than 80 percent of Christian adults accepted Christ as their Savior before age 13. This is why kids ministries like BOLT are so necessary. This program can help churches reach kids in congregations and communities with the gospel when they are most receptive.

BOLT is a based on the idea that leaders need something they can use for short sprints of deep discipleship that is fast, fun, and flexible. Sometimes running a yearlong program is not a possibility. Running shorter programs of 4- to 6-week modules allows you to make a difference and impact your community.

First, BOLT hopes to affect three aspects of a child—mind, heart/soul, and body. How does it work? By studying God's Word and memorizing Scripture, children begin to experience a renewing of their mind. As kids apply God's Word to their lives and learn to listen to the Holy Spirit, their hearts are changed. This leads kids to have godly actions and behaviors, which serve to protect and preserve them physically and spiritually. As kids experience Life Skills training, they gain confidence and find new ways to serve Him in every aspect of life.

BOLT FOR ANY SIZE GROUP OF KIDS

The large-group format of the BOLT curriculum was created especially for the unique needs of each church. Larger churches or groups with a large number of children typically have a larger pool of volunteers from which to draw from and need more options to choose from. Smaller churches need the flexibility that BOLT offers to tailor their program to fit their availiable volunteers. BOLT makes it possible for both size churches to match volunteers to the type of service and skills that best suit their spiritual gifts and natural abilities.

A Large Group BOLT meeting consists of:

1. Singing and Bible Exploration in **Large Group time** (20-30 minutes)– Large Group Leaders lead singing and Bible memory review, present a Bible story, and introduce the memory verse for the week in a large-group setting.

2. Bible Exploration follow-up and relationship building take place in **Small Group time** (20-30 minutes)—Small Group Leaders build relationships with and between kids while leading a Hands-On Activity that illustrates the main point of Bible Exploration, followed by discussion questions, a Mentoring Moment, and Bible Memory.

3. **Life Skills Training time** (20-30 minutes each)—Life Skills Leaders help club members work on skill-building activities and projects (such as Baking, Mad Science, Secret Codes, Wood Projects, Trail Hikes, or Standing Up to Bullies).

The Large Group BOLT curriculum:

- is designed for grades 1-6
- · works well for churches ministering to any size group of kids
- equips churches to minister to multiple age levels in a large group while retaining important small-group relational time
- equips churches to instruct kids across age levels with the same Bible lesson each week
- provides easy-to-use Bible studies with life application
- · encourages volunteers to use their individual strengths and giftedness
- provides undated material that fits into 1 1/2 to 2 hours
- encourages and affirms all kids through a noncompetitive life-skill development program

WAYS TO USE THE BOLT LARGE GROUP/SMALL GROUP FORMAT PROGRAM

- midweek club
- after school club
- children's church
- Sunday children's ministry
- summer church camp
- anytime that fits your church schedule

What Does BOLT Stand For?

Each letter of BOLT stands for a very important biblical concept that we hope to instill in the lives of kids through this unique children's ministry. The letters are:

Bible Centered–God has given us His Word to equip us to live like Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Outreach Focused–We are called to reach out into our community and share Jesus with everyone. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Life Skills Learned–We need to develop life skills as created beings, to do good, bless our community, build relationships, and share the gospel through common interests with others. (Ephesians 2:10)

Transformation Experienced–When we trust in Jesus and allow Him to have control of our lives, He transforms (or changes) us to be more like Him. (Romans 12:2)

Meeting Options

You may:

- combine all grades for the Large Group time, Small Group time, and Life Skills training.
- combine all grades for Large Group time, then divide into Small Groups/Life Skills training by gender, age, or grades.
- do Large Group time by grades 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6; then divide into Small Group time by grades; follow with Life Skill training by grades.

The designated area for the weekly Large Group time should allow all children to see and hear the Large Group Leader easily and be inviting and attractive. A raised stage would be a plus but is not necessary. It is ideal to have separate rooms for the Large Group time, Small Group time, and Life Skills training. If this is not possible, try to reserve one end of the room for Large Group time and the other for projects and games. For Small Group time, groups may meet in individual classrooms or sit around tables or on rugs in a large room.

VOLUNTEER STAFFING AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- BOLT Coordinator provides oversight for the entire ministry. The coordinator recruits and trains needed staff; is the contact person with Pioneer Clubs headquarters; orders needed resources, emblems, and award stickers; and keeps church staff informed. He or she is also the go-to person for questions or problems during meetings.
- Large Group Leaders lead the all-group singing and teach the Large Group Bible Exploration lesson. A Large Group Leader should be comfortable in front of lots of kids. Your club may recruit more than one Large Group Leader to split singing, Bible memory review, and Bible Exploration duties. The Bible Exploration Leader should be someone who can create and perform characters, recruit additional actors as needed, and/ or direct other performers. He or she may gather needed props for skits or may communicate supply needs to Supply Aides.
- Small Group Leaders focus on building relationships with kids while covering the Hands-On Activity, questions, Mentoring Moment, and Scripture memory work. Small Groups work best with 8-10 kids per leader. Small Group Leaders play a key role in connecting with kids and helping them grow spiritually. Small Group Leader Planbooks give leaders handson activity instructions, appropriate questions, Mentoring Moments, and Bible memory teaching techniques. Small Group Leaders will communicate supply needs to Supply Aide(s). Small Group Leaders also accompany kids to Life Skills training, where they help kids complete awards.
- Life Skill Training Coordinator recruits team members with specific talents or interests to lead Life Skill Training. He or she communicates supply needs for the Life Skill training to the Supply Aides.
- **Supply Aide(s)** gather needed supplies and equipment, as directed, for Life Skill training time, Large Group time and Small Group time. This job may be done anytime prior to the Pioneer Clubs meeting. Great for involving those who may not be able to assist during BOLT meetings.

BOLT ESSENTIAL CLUB RESOURCES

Large Group Leader Planbook

Used by: Large Group Leaders

• Lists supplies and help needed for Large Group time; Scripted Bible Explorations, Bible Memory, and prayer content.

Small Group Leader Planbooks, for any grade level

Used by: Small Group Leaders

• Scripted Hands-On Activity, follow-up questions, Mentoring Moment, and Bible Memory Activities.

BOLT Bible Take Home Page, for all grade levels (1-6)

Used by: Kids, adult(s) at home

• Used at home every week to reinforce Bible teaching and application, review memory verse, and connect with an adult in a spiritual conversation.

Life Skill Training Guide for Leaders, for any grade level

Used by: Life Skills Training Leaders

• Supplies and instructions needed to teach the Life Skill training for 5-6 weeks.

Life Skill Training Guide for Kids, for any grade level

Used by: Kids

 Supplies and instructions needed to work on activities, reference guide for what is learned so any missed lessons can be made up at home with an adult.

BOLT LARGE-GROUP MEETING STRUCTURE

Large Group Time

The Opening Large Group time includes singing, welcome, announcements, review of Bible memory, and opening prayer. You may decide to recruit one person to lead this time or choose to separate responsibilities (song leader, Bible teacher, Bible memory leader, etc.).

During Bible Exploration time, a Large Group Leader presents biblical material with enthusiasm and recruits extra actors as needed for skits.

Each Bible Exploration has three sections:

- **Introduction**—meets kids where they are and gets them thinking about the lesson theme.
- Scripture-gets kids into God's Word to discover how it applies to their everyday lives.
- **Application**-helps kids begin to see how what they've discovered in Scripture will make a difference in their lives.

Bible Memory time introduces a verse from the Bible Exploration as the weekly memory verse.

The **Closing Prayer** thanks God for His Word and asks Him to help us live by it.

Order resources in our store at www.pioneerclubs.org/resources or call a Ministry Services Consultant at 800-694-CLUB (2582).

BOLT SMALL-GROUP MEETING STRUCTURE

Each **Small Group** offers a relational time for kids and Small Group Leaders. The Small Group Leader is the facilitator who helps kids engage in a Hands-On Activity that further illustrates the Bible Exploration presented during Large Group time.

Small Group Leaders:

- greet children with enthusiasm and use appropriate touch
- help kids get to know one another
- encourage mutual support and respect through language that communicates love and respect
- ask questions while listening carefully
- · help kids come to faith in Christ and grow spiritually
- pray for and with their kids
- · connect with parents, helping families get or stay connected to the church

Each Small Group time has five sections:

- High Voltage: Hands-On Activity-The Small Group Leader leads a Hands-On Activity that reinforces the Bible Exploration Lesson.
- Effectively Grounded: Scripture Passage
- **Spark-Test: Questions to Ask**—The Small Group Leader asks five questions that further comprehension and application.
- Reflector: Mentoring Moment—The Small Group Leader shares how the topic studied has impacted their own life and how God has been at work in them.
- Get Charged Up: Bible Memory Review—Plans suggest helpful teaching techniques to assist kids in learning the verses for each unit. Bible Memory Cards reinforce learning and achievement.

SMALL GROUP SUPPLIES

We suggest having a standard "supply kit" of basic supplies: pens, pencils, markers, glue, tape, scissors, plain paper, construction paper, roll of paper (such as plain white shelf paper), index cards, and a foam ball or beanbag.

Prepare a tub or basket with these supplies for each Small Group. Supply Aide(s) can check levels and replenish supplies from week to week. Stocking your Small Group areas with Bibles ensures that everyone will have one to use during club. Bibles with concordances will be helpful for older kids.

LIFE SKILL TRAINING TIME

Life Skill Training provides fun with friends in a Christian environment as well as building life skills covering five general categories: the arts, hobbies and projects, communication skills, outdoor activities, and games.

Kids earn one Life Skill Award each unit. Kids work on the Life Skill Award for all 4-6 weeks of the unit they're doing. The Life Skill Training Coordinator selects each Life Skill Training Guide and communicates supply needs to the Supply Aide(s). Supply instructions may indicate, for example, "1 plastic half gallon milk container for each kid." The Supply Aide(s) will need to know how many kids or groups to gather supplies for. Small Group Leaders accompany their groups to Life Skill Training. Their responsibility is to encourage the kids and help them complete their Life Skill Training.

OPTIONS FOR LIFE SKILL TRAINING

Clubs may conduct three different life skill training groups based on grade/age levels, each with its own Life Skill Training Coordinator.

Very large churches may choose to operate in a "station rotation" mode for each age level or all age levels. For example, while grade 1–3 Small Groups are involved with the Life Skill Training, grade 4-6 Small Groups may be engaged in Small Group time. Each age level rotates to the next activity when the allotted time is up.

SEND HOME THE BOLT BIBLE TAKE HOME PAGE

- Be sure to send kids home each week with the Take Home Page. This is a terrific way to make a home-church connection.
- It is designed to work equally well with Christian and non-Christian adults, supporting both in their parenting role and giving them an opportunity to engage in as much of a spiritual conversation as desired.
- This also reinforces the Bible Story and the Bible Verse in a fun and playful way.



What Is the Bible? Lesson Four

Bible Study Aims

Kids will:

- Realize that the Bible can show them who they are.
- Sense the importance of acting on what they learn from God's Word.
- Talk to God about how well they're following His commands.

Lightning Bolt Truth

Jesus wants to see me act on what He shows me in His Word.

Scripture

James 1:22-27; background: Psalm 119:129-135

Prayer of Preparation

Lord, help me be honest about how You are working on me through what I learn in the Bible. Continue to change me as I come to Your Word and listen to Your Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Supplies

- □ Bibles
- □ large mirror
- □ small mirrors to share
- \Box pencils
- □ Memory Verse Sticker for each kid

Plan Ahead

- Gather supplies.
- Hang (or place) a large mirror in the room.

A Guide for Life

<u>opening</u>

Welcome! Make announcements.

<u>SING</u>

Choose songs relating to the Bible and being "doers" not just "hearers" of the Word.

<u>REVIEW</u>

Review memory verses: 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 2:5; John 17:17.

<u>Pray</u>

Dear Jesus, let us learn what it looks like to reflect who You are in our lives. May we read the Bible with a focus on what You want to change in our lives so that we can become the people You created us to be. In Your name we pray, Amen.

(30-35 Minutes)

INTRODUCTION

• Point to the large mirror. What is a mirror used for? Why would you have one at home in your bathroom or in your room? (To see things about yourself.)

Look in the mirror. Comment on something about yourself (wrinkled shirt, color of eyes, messy hair, big smile, etc.). Let kids take turns looking in the small mirrors and commenting on things about themselves.

Sometimes a mirror shows us things that are good. Sometimes it shows us things that need to be fixed. Let's have two volunteers. Take the volunteers out of sight, and make an obvious, negative change in their appearance (messed-up hair, dirt on face, sock draped over ear, etc.). Have the volunteers, one at a time, look in the large mirror in front of the group, make flattering comments about themselves, and sit down. (If the volunteers are younger kids, you may need to tell them beforehand not to say anything about the negative change but focus only on what is good and right.)

• What would you think if someone in real life didn't do anything about what the mirror showed?

The Bible says that reading the Bible is like looking in a mirror. We are expected to look at what the Bible says, look at our life, see what needs to change, and begin allowing the Holy Spirit to change what isn't right.

<u>SCRIPTURE</u>

• How do you think reading the Bible could be like looking in a mirror? (The Bible tells us what God thinks of us; It helps us know ourselves better; The Bible shows us what we're doing right; It shows us what we're doing wrong so we can correct our ways; etc.)

Have kids follow along as you or older kids read James 1:22-25. Let's think about what these verses mean.

- Picture a person who reads the Bible and doesn't do what it says. According to these verses, what is that person like? (Not wise; Forgetful; Not taking care of what is right in front of them that everyone can see; etc.)
- If you looked in a mirror and found out that your shirt was ripped or you had dirt all over your face, what would you do? (Take responses.)
- You are right; if being neat or clean is important to you, you would fix yourself up. But what if being neat or clean wasn't important to you? (Take various responses.)

Read James 1: 26-27. James wants to make sure we understand what being a doer of the Word means. He gives us two more examples so that we can understand how Jesus expects us to live.

- Is it enough to be religious and go to church or club? (No. We need to be someone that faces the truth of who we really are in light of what God's Word says and changes to do what it says.)
- What does pure and undefiled religion look like? (We will be people who look after orphans and widows and we will not look like everyone else because we will not be stained by the world.)
- What do you think it means to not be stained by the world? (It means we will make different choices, being careful about what we bring into our hearts, choosing obedience to Jesus over doing what everyone else does, and listening to the Holy Spirit.)
- So from this passage, can you explain how God expects a Christian to live? (We need to daily spend time in God's word, so that we can see where He wants us to grow and change; We choose to respond by obeying and doing what He asks us to do; We center our lives around living for others; Helping widows and orphans and blessing others with our mouths.)

God wants us to care about looking like Jesus, reflecting what someone who follows and obeys Jesus looks like. That has to become important to us or we won't care when things don't match the mirror of God's Word.

- So, if you read the Bible and find out that you are doing something that God doesn't want you to do, like lying or being mean, what might you do? Why? (Take responses.)
- What does verse 25 promise a person who reads the Bible and does what it says? Reread the verse. (The person will be blessed—happy—in doing what the Bible says.)

<u>APPLICATION</u>

Let's look in the large mirror again. This time, let's be honest with what we see. Can someone hold this mirror for me? Have another adult who has been out in the hall come in with messed up hair and dirt or makeup all over their face.

Sometimes when we come to the mirror, we feel embarassed or like we aren't loved because we don't measure up. That is not what God wants us to experience when we read His word. This is what God wants to do for us.

Have your volunteer sit in the chair and complement her on the things that are good. Get out a hairbrush and gently smooth and fix their hair. Say encouraging things as you do this restoration. Then take out a wipe and gently wipe their face and adjust them so that they are restored. **This is what God longs to do for us; to help us in His kind, gentle, and loving way.**

God wants His word to be a wonderful mirror for us to look into and see what needs to change in our hearts. When we are reading His word we need to listen for the Holy Spirit to tell us what is needs to change. Then God gently helps us change and become the people He created us to be.

• What things can you think of that God tells us in the Bible that He wants us to do? (Love God; Love our neighbors; Obey our parents; etc.

Reread James 1:22-25.

- If we see how He wants us to be in the Bible and we don't make any changes to become different than sin has made us to be, who are we fooling? (Ourselves; We are deceiving ourselves that our faith makes any difference; We are just pretending to be religious.)
- Who is the person who is blessed in what he does? (The one who looks intently at the law of freedom, perseveres in it, and does what it says.)
- Are you choosing to change and become the person God created you to be?

BIBLE MEMORY

Review unit memory verses: 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 2:5; John 17:17.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Jesus, I know that we are to reflect what You look like to others. I pray that as we read the Bible we would change where the Holy Spirit show us we need to change. In Your name, Amen.



INTRODUCTION

<u>our goals</u>

To help churched and unchurched kids:

- enter into a personal relationship with Jesus and develop confidence in using the Bible to know who God is and how to apply what the Bible says to form strong, healthy relationships.
- grow in all aspects of life-physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual.

SO WHY BOLT?

Discipling a young person is arguably the single most important ministry a church can undertake. We know that children are the church's future. But they are also our present—and the church must act today to reach them for Christ. Various studies indicate that more than 80 percent of Christian adults accepted Christ as their Savior before age 13. This is why kids ministries like BOLT are so necessary. This program can help churches reach kids in congregations and communities with the gospel when they are most receptive.

BOLT is a based on the idea that leaders need something they can use for short sprints of deep discipleship that is fast, fun, and flexible. Sometimes running a yearlong program is not a possibility. Running shorter programs of 4- to 6-week modules allows you to make a difference and impact your community.

First, BOLT hopes to affect three aspects of a child—mind, heart/soul, and body. How does it work? By studying God's Word and memorizing Scripture, children begin to experience a renewing of their mind. As kids apply God's Word to their lives and learn to listen to the Holy Spirit, their hearts are changed. This leads kids to have godly actions and behaviors, which serve to protect and preserve them physically and spiritually. As kids experience Life Skills training, they gain confidence and find new ways to serve Him in every aspect of life.

BOLT FOR ANY SIZE GROUP OF KIDS

The large-group format of the BOLT curriculum was created especially for the unique needs of each church. Larger churches or groups with a large number of children typically have a larger pool of volunteers from which to draw from and need more options to choose from. Smaller churches need the flexibility that BOLT offers to tailor their program to fit their availiable volunteers. BOLT makes it possible for both size churches to match volunteers to the type of service and skills that best suit their spiritual gifts and natural abilities.

A Large Group BOLT meeting consists of:

1. Singing and Bible Exploration in **Large Group time** (20-30 minutes)—Large Group Leaders lead singing and Bible memory review, present a Bible story, and introduce the memory verse for the week in a large-group setting.

2. Bible Exploration follow-up and relationship building take place in **Small Group time** (20-30 minutes)—Small Group Leaders build relationships with and between kids while leading a Hands-On Activity that illustrates the main point of Bible Exploration, followed by discussion questions, a Mentoring Moment, and Bible Memory.

3. Life Skills Training time (20-30 minutes each)—Life Skills Leaders help club members work on skill-building activities and projects (such as Baking, Mad Science, Secret Codes, Wood Projects, Trail Hikes, or Standing Up to Bullies).

The Large Group BOLT curriculum:

- is designed for grades 1-6
- · works well for churches ministering to any size group of kids
- equips churches to minister to multiple age levels in a large group while retaining important small-group relational time
- · equips churches to instruct kids across age levels with the same Bible lesson each week
- · provides easy-to-use Bible studies with life application
- · encourages volunteers to use their individual strengths and giftedness
- provides undated material that fits into 1 1/2 to 2 hours
- · encourages and affirms all kids through a noncompetitive life-skill development program

WAYS TO USE THE BOLT LARGE GROUP/SMALL GROUP FORMAT PROGRAM

- midweek club
- after school club
- children's church
- Sunday children's ministry
- summer church camp
- · anytime that fits your church schedule

What Does BOLT Stand For?

Each letter of BOLT stands for a very important biblical concept that we hope to instill in the lives of kids through this unique children's ministry. The letters are:

Bible Centered-God has given us His Word to equip us to live like Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Outreach Focused–We are called to reach out into our community and share Jesus with everyone. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Life Skills Learned–We need to develop life skills as created beings, to do good, bless our community, build relationships, and share the gospel through common interests with others. (Ephesians 2:10)

Transformation Experienced–When we trust in Jesus and allow Him to have control of our lives, He transforms (or changes) us to be more like Him. (Romans 12:2)

Meeting Options

You may:

- combine all grades for the Large Group time, Small Group time, and Life Skills training.
- combine all grades for Large Group time, then divide into Small Groups/Life Skills training by gender, age, or grades.
- do Large Group time by grades 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6; then divide into Small Group time by grades; follow with Life Skill training by grades.

The designated area for the weekly Large Group time should allow all children to see and hear the Large Group Leader easily and be inviting and attractive. A raised stage would be a plus but is not necessary. It is ideal to have separate rooms for the Large Group time, Small Group time, and Life Skills training. If this is not possible, try to reserve one end of the room for Large Group time and the other for projects and games. For Small Group time, groups may meet in individual classrooms or sit around tables or on rugs in a large room.

VOLUNTEER STAFFING AND RESPONSIBILITIES

 BOLT Coordinator provides oversight for the entire ministry. The coordinator recruits and trains needed staff; is the contact person with Pioneer Clubs headquarters; orders needed resources, emblems, and award stickers; and keeps church staff informed. He or she is also the go-to person for questions or problems during meetings.

- Large Group Leaders lead the all-group singing and teach the Large Group Bible Exploration lesson. A Large Group Leader should be comfortable in front of lots of kids. Your club may recruit more than one Large Group Leader to split singing, Bible memory review, and Bible Exploration duties. The Bible Exploration Leader should be someone who can create and perform characters, recruit additional actors as needed, and/or direct other performers. He or she may gather needed props for skits or may communicate supply needs to Supply Aides.
- Small Group Leaders focus on building relationships with kids while covering the Hands-On Activity, questions, Mentoring Moment, and Scripture memory work. Small Groups work best with 8-10 kids per leader. Small Group Leaders play a key role in connecting with kids and helping them grow spiritually. Small Group Leader Planbooks give leaders hands-on activity instructions, appropriate questions, Mentoring Moments, and Bible memory teaching techniques. Small Group Leaders will communicate supply needs to Supply Aide(s). Small Group Leaders also accompany kids to Life Skills training, where they help kids complete awards.
- Life Skill Training Coordinator recruits team members with specific talents or interests to lead Life Skill Training. He or she communicates supply needs for the Life Skill training to the Supply Aides.
- **Supply Aide(s)** gather needed supplies and equipment, as directed, for Life Skill training time, Large Group time and Small Group time. This job may be done anytime prior to the Pioneer Clubs meeting. Great for involving those who may not be able to assist during BOLT meetings.

BOLT ESSENTIAL CLUB RESOURCES

Large Group Leader Planbook

Used by: Large Group Leaders

• Lists supplies and help needed for Large Group time; Scripted Bible Explorations, Bible Memory, and prayer content.

Small Group Leader Planbooks, for any grade level

Used by: Small Group Leaders

· Scripted Hands-On Activity, follow-up questions, Mentoring Moment, and Bible Memory Activities.

BOLT Bible Take Home Page, for all grade levels (1-6)

Used by: Kids, adult(s) at home

• Used at home every week to reinforce Bible teaching and application, review memory verse, and connect with an adult in a spiritual conversation.

Life Skill Training Guide for Leaders, for any grade level

Used by: Life Skills Training Leaders

• Supplies and instructions needed to teach the Life Skill training for 5-6 weeks.

Life Skill Training Guide for Kids, for any grade level

Used by: Kids

• Supplies and instructions needed to work on activities, reference guide for what is learned so any missed lessons can be made up at home with an adult.

Order resources in our store at www.pioneerclubs.org/resources or call a Ministry Services Consultant at 800-694-CLUB (2582).

BOLT LARGE-GROUP MEETING STRUCTURE

Large Group Time

The Opening Large Group time includes singing, welcome, announcements, review of Bible memory, and opening prayer. You may decide to recruit one person to lead this time or choose to separate responsibilities (song leader, Bible teacher, Bible memory leader, etc.).

During Bible Exploration time, a Large Group Leader presents biblical material with enthusiasm and recruits extra actors as needed for skits.

Each Bible Exploration has three sections:

- Introduction-meets kids where they are and gets them thinking about the lesson theme.
- Scripture-gets kids into God's Word to discover how it applies to their everyday lives.
- **Application**—helps kids begin to see how what they've discovered in Scripture will make a difference in their lives.

Bible Memory time introduces a verse from the Bible Exploration as the weekly memory verse.

The **Closing Prayer** thanks God for His Word and asks Him to help us live by it.

BOLT SMALL-GROUP MEETING STRUCTURE

Each **Small Group** offers a relational time for kids and Small Group Leaders. The Small Group Leader is the facilitator who helps kids engage in a Hands-On Activity that further illustrates the Bible Exploration presented during Large Group time.

Small Group Leaders:

- · greet children with enthusiasm and use appropriate touch
- · help kids get to know one another
- encourage mutual support and respect through language that communicates love and respect
- ask questions while listening carefully
- · help kids come to faith in Christ and grow spiritually
- pray for and with their kids
- · connect with parents, helping families get or stay connected to the church

Each Small Group time has five sections:

- **High Voltage: Hands-On Activity**—The Small Group Leader leads a Hands-On Activity that reinforces the Bible Exploration Lesson.
- Effectively Grounded: Scripture Passage
- **Spark-Test: Questions to Ask**—The Small Group Leader asks five questions that further comprehension and application.
- **Reflector: Mentoring Moment**—The Small Group Leader shares how the topic studied has impacted their own life and how God has been at work in them.
- Get Charged Up: Bible Memory Review—Plans suggest helpful teaching techniques to assist kids in learning the verses for each unit.

SMALL GROUP SUPPLIES

We suggest having a standard "supply kit" of basic supplies: pens, pencils, markers, glue, tape, scissors, plain paper, construction paper, roll of paper (such as plain white shelf paper), index cards, and a foam ball or beanbag.

Prepare a tub or basket with these supplies for each Small Group. Supply Aide(s) can check levels and replenish supplies from week to week. Stocking your Small Group areas with Bibles ensures that everyone will have one to use during club. Bibles with concordances will be helpful for older kids.

LIFE SKILL TRAINING TIME

Life Skill Training provides fun with friends in a Christian environment as well as building life skills covering five general categories: the arts, hobbies and projects, communication skills, outdoor activities, and games.

Kids earn one Life Skill Award each unit. Kids work on the Life Skill Award for all 4-6 weeks of the unit they're doing. The Life Skill Training Coordinator selects each Life Skill Training Guide and communicates supply needs to the Supply Aide(s). Supply instructions may indicate, for example, "1 plastic half gallon milk container for each kid." The Supply Aide(s) will need to know how many kids or groups to gather supplies for. Small Group Leaders accompany their groups to Life Skill Training. Their responsibility is to encourage the kids and help them complete their Life Skill Training.

OPTIONS FOR LIFE SKILL TRAINING

Clubs may conduct three different life skill training groups based on grade/age levels, each with its own Life Skill Training Coordinator.

Very large churches may choose to operate in a "station rotation" mode for each age level or all age levels. For example, while grade 1–3 Small Groups are involved with the Life Skill Training, grade 4-6 Small Groups may be engaged in Small Group time. Each age level rotates to the next activity when the allotted time is up.

SEND HOME THE BOLT BIBLE TAKE HOME PAGE

- Be sure to send kids home each week with the Take Home Page. This is a terrific way to make a home-church connection.
- It is designed to work equally well with Christian and non-Christian adults, supporting both in their
 parenting role and giving them an opportunity to engage in as much of a spiritual conversation
 as desired.
- This also reinforces the Bible Story and the Bible Verse in a fun and playful way.



Putting God First Week One

Treasure in Heaven

(15-20 Minutes)

Supplies

- Bibles
- □ 10 ounces popcorn kernels
- □ orange Sharpie markers
- □ bowl
- □ chocolate gold foil wrapped coins for each kid
- □ large sheet of paper or poster board
- □ Memory Verse Sticker for each kid

Plan Ahead

- Gather supplies.
- Memorize Matthew 6:21.
- Print out the verse on a large sheet of paper or poster board.
- Cut into puzzle pieces and mix them up.

Lightning Bolt Truth A relationship with Jesus is the greatest treasure I can have.

HIGH VOLTAGE: HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

This is a Minute-to-Win-It game. Fill a bowl with about 10 ounces of unpopped popcorn kernels. Take out 5 kernels and have the kids color them with an orange colored Sharpie marker. Then put them back in the bowl and have another kid mix it all around. Have the group work together for one timed minute to try to find the five colored kernels. If all 5 kernels are found, give each child a chocolate foil wrapped coin as a treat. If not, let the group try again.

EFFECTIVELY GROUNDED: MATTHEW 6:19-21

SPARK TEST: QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. You all worked really hard to win this game. Was the treasure worth it? Why or why not?

2. What are treasures that you see others working really hard to get? (Good grades; New game; Vacation; Car; Boat; House; etc.) **Do you think people are really satisfied with what they work so hard for? Why or why not?**

3. Have you ever had something that you didn't value but found out later was very valuable? What are some things in life that we undervalue that really should be treasured? (Family, a relationship with God, time with people, health, or anything that we take for granted.)

4. What does the Bible say is treasure worth seeking? (A relationship with Jesus.)

5. How does having a relationship with Jesus really satisfy us? (Fills us with His love; Gives us purpose; Helps us live the way He created us to be; Helps us know who we are.)

REFLECTOR: MENTORING MOMENT

Talk about how you came to value a relationship with Jesus. How has loving Him changed what you value in life? What new priorities have become important to you as you follow Jesus?

GET CHARGED UP: BIBLE MEMORY REVIEW

Let's memorize a key verse from our study today. Read Matthew 6:21 aloud together once or twice and talk about what it means. Then spread out the puzzle pieces and have kids take turns putting the pieces together correctly. Every time the puzzle is complete, all the kids recite the verse together aloud.

Hand out Memory Verse Stickers.



PLUGGING IN AT HOME

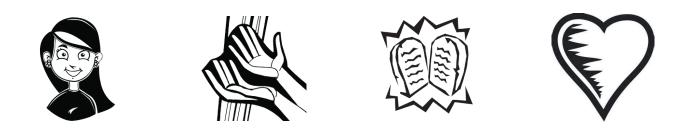
Memory

Verse

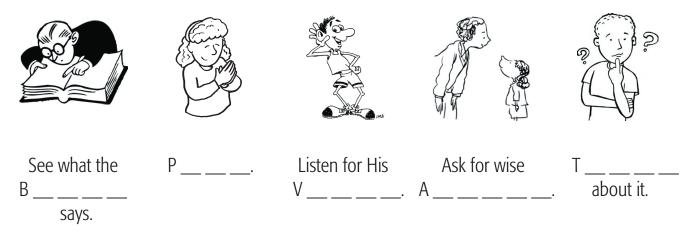
Putting God First: How to Please God

LIGHTNING BOLT TRUTH: I can choose to H _____ God through decisions I M _____.

GET CHARGED UP: Psalm 40:8. Use these pictures to help you write this week's verse below.



GET PLUGGED IN: How can you know before you make a decision that it will honor God?



POWER ON AT HOME: Ask your adult—What do you do when you have to make a hard decision? How do you decide what to do?

<u>our goals</u>

To help churched and unchurched kids:

- enter into a personal relationship with Jesus and develop confidence in using the Bible to know who God is and how to apply what the Bible says to form strong, healthy relationships.
- grow in all aspects of life-physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual.

What Does BOLT Stand For?

Each letter of BOLT stands for a very important biblical concept that we hope to instill in the lives of kids through this unique children's ministry. The letters are:

Bible Centered-God has given us His Word to equip us to live like Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Outreach Focused–We are called to reach out into our community and share Jesus with everyone. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Life Skills Learned–We need to develop life skills as created beings, to do good, bless our community, build relationships, and share the gospel through common interests with others. (Ephesians 2:10)

Transformation Experienced–When we trust in Jesus and allow Him to have control of our lives, He transforms (or changes) us to be more like Him. (Romans 12:2)

LIFE SKILL TRAINING TIME

Life Skill Training provides fun with friends in a Christian environment as well as building life skills covering five general categories: the arts, hobbies and projects, communication skills, outdoor activities, and games.

Kids earn one Life Skill Award each unit. Kids work on the Life Skill Award for all 4-6 weeks of the unit they're doing. The Life Skill Training Coordinator selects each Life Skill Training Guide and communicates supply needs to the Supply Aide(s). Supply instructions may indicate, for example, "1 plastic half gallon milk container for each kid." The Supply Aide(s) will need to know how many kids or groups to gather supplies for. Small Group Leaders accompany their groups to Life Skill Training. Their responsibility is to encourage the kids and help them complete their Life Skill Training.

OPTIONS FOR LIFE SKILL TRAINING

Clubs may conduct three different life skill training groups based on grade/age levels, each with its own Life Skill Training Coordinator.

Very large churches may choose to operate in a "station rotation" mode for each age level or all age levels. For example, while grade 1–3 Small Groups are involved with the Life Skill Training, grade 4-6 Small Groups may be engaged in Small Group time. Each age level rotates to the next activity when the allotted time is up.

Communicating with the Deaf Life Skill Training Leader Guide

Welcome to the world of communicating with the deaf! For the next 4-6 weeks you will have the opportunity to help kids as they progressively learn about communicating with the deaf. Each week kids will build upon what they learned the previous week and at the end they will be introduced to a new life skill.

As you use the BOLT curriculum, you'll be helping them learn biblical principles that will impact their spiritual formation. But our job as adults is more than instilling spiritual truth into young lives. We also want to teach kids how to engage with friends and neighbors and the physical world in which we live. We have found that engaging with them in learning a new life skill, like communicating with the deaf, is a great way to do just that.

Over the next several weeks you have the privilege of introducing kids in your church and community to a life skill that they can take with them for years to come. Many kids that you encounter will be experiencing this life skill for the very first time. Just imagine how important some of the skills they learn in BOLT will be in their lives for years to come. What you do over the next few weeks can open doors for kids to build life-long interests that help them learn and grow beside others who share their passion.

Your goal is to help kids:

- Experience a positive, basic introduction to communicating with the deaf.
- Develop this skill through instruction and practice.
- Complete the life-skill requirements with a level of confidence and competence that encourages them toward life-long learning.
- Understand that there are others who enjoy and are interested in communicating with the deaf with whom they can connect and share ideas.
- See how communicating with the deaf is connected to their faith and provides opportunities to serve others.

Each week there are specific objectives that must be completed for your kids to earn the communicating-with-the-deaf award at the end of your time with them. If a child is absent for a week, the lesson they miss should be completed at home or at another time so that they can earn the communicating-with-the-deaf award. Be sure to keep up with each kid's progress and lend support where it is needed.

These are the specific life skill objectives you will be working towards during this unit:

- □ 1. What is it Like?
- □ 2. Hello, My Name Is...
- □ 3. Basic Signs to Communicate.
- □ 4. Practice Conversation.



Basic Signs to Communicate

(Do All)

🗆 Entering and Leaving

Review the signs they learned in the last meeting. Teach the signs below. Have kids practice how to start and finish conversations with a partner.

Signs to Review:

- Hello
- My name (is)
- Their English name
- Their Sign name

Signs to Learn:

- Good-bye
- I'm happy to meet you
- Good Morning Afternoon Night
- See you later



Good-bye



I'm Happy



To Meet





Good



Morning



Good



Afternoon



Good



Night





Secret Codes

Life Skill Training Guide for Kids

To earn your Secret Codes Certificate of Achievement, complete the requirements of each section.

If you miss BOLT, you will need to make up the section you missed at home with an adult.

- 🗆 1. Meaningful Marks
- \Box 2. Speaking in Code
- \Box 3. Code and Decode
- 🗆 4. Specialized Codes

A code uses symbols, letters, words, or signals to send messages or store information. Codes can keep messages short – or secret.



Code and Decode

(Choose Two)

\Box Half-Reversed Alphabet

Use the alphabet as written below to code and decode. Each letter switches with the one above or below it, so A stands for N and N stands for A, E stands for R and R stands for E, and so on.

А	В	С	D	Ε	F	G	Н		J	Κ	L	М
Ν	0	Р	Q	R	S	Т	U	V	W	Х	Y	Ζ

Write a coded message. Ask a friend to decode it.

Coded Message: _____

Answer:

🗆 Pigpen Cipher

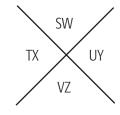
A cipher is any kind of code that uses other letters or symbols to replace the real letters in your message. The pigpen cipher is easy to set up. First you write out the whole alphabet in two grids, like this:

To make the code for each letter, draw the part of the "pigpen" that surrounds it. If it's the second letter in the box, then it has a dot in the middle.

An A looks like this: And a J looks like this:

AJ	BK	CL			
DM	EN	FO			
GP	HQ	IR			

And a S looks like this: V And a W looks like this: \forall



Can you translate this cipher?

FOALLEV 2007 202 VOLFO> >NF07V;
 NO 2000V VNJ> FV F0 >NO 2000VV;
 LF1N> 2000VV VF>N FF3.

Write a message to a friend using pigpen code. Have your friend decode it.