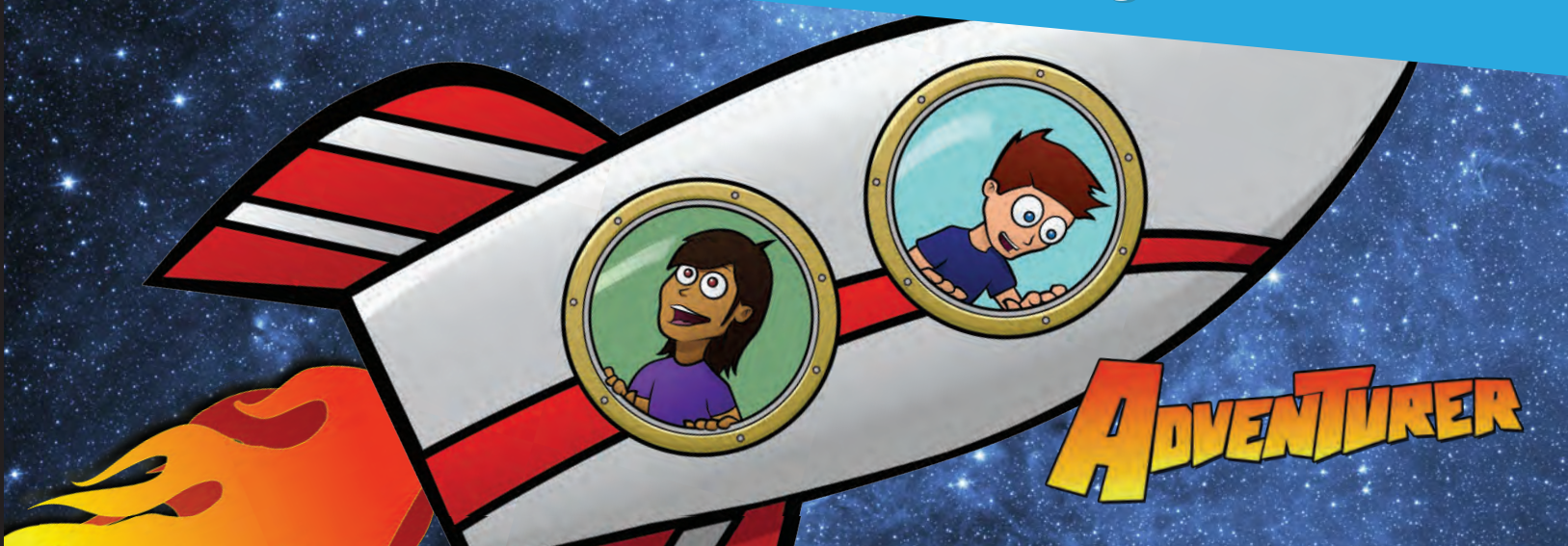


Hiker



LARGE GROUP

Knowing God's Love



NAVIGATOR



Leader Planbook



Large Group Leader Introduction

PIONEER CLUBS GOALS

To help churched and unchurched children:

- enter into a personal relationship with Jesus and develop confidence in using the Bible as a way to strengthen their relationship with Him and live in obedience to Him
- experience spiritual transformation and form strong, healthy relationships with others
- grow in all aspects of life—physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual

SO WHY DELTA?

Discipling young people 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 weekly kids ministries like DELTA are so necessary. This program can help churches reach kids in congregations and communities with the gospel when they are most receptive.

So why DELTA? Delta is the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet and the capital letter resembles a triangle (**Δ**). We feel that the “three-ness” of a triangle makes a great symbol for this program. First, DELTA hopes to affect three aspects of a child—mind, heart 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, their hearts are changed, leading to godly actions and behavior, which serve to protect and preserve them physically, as well as spiritually.

The three points on a triangle also serve as a visual symbol for kids of the Trinity. Each represents a member of the Godhead—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Finally, Delta is a term used in science to denote incremental change—in other words, transformation. And that is exactly what DELTA hopes will happen in the lives of children—a transformation brought about by trusting Jesus Christ for eternity and learning to follow Him in every aspect of life.

DELTA FOR LARGE GROUPS OF KIDS

The large-group format of the DELTA curriculum was created especially for the unique needs of clubs with many children. Usually larger churches or groups with a large number of children also have a larger pool of volunteers from which to draw. This allows them the ability to match volunteers to the type of service and interests that best suit their spiritual gifts and natural abilities.

What Does DELTA Stand For?

Each letter of DELTA 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:

Disciples—God wants you to learn to follow Christ in every aspect of life—that's what it means to be a disciple. (John 8:31)

Equipped for—God has given you His Word in order to equip you to live like Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Life—Jesus came to earth to live, die and rise from the dead in order that you might have eternal and abundant life. (John 10:10)

Transformation and—When you trust in Jesus and allow Him to have control of your life, He transforms (or changes) you to be more like Him. This is what God desires for you. (Romans 12:2)

Action—It is great to know and understand what God's Word says—but it is also important to be doers of His Word by putting what you know into action. (James 1:22)

A Pioneer Clubs Large Group DELTA 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 club members while leading Bible Exploration follow-up through discussions, activities, Bible handbook work and Bible Memory.
3. **Skill Award time and Games Award time** (20-30 minutes each)—Skill Award Coordinator/Skill Award Leader(s) and the Games Coach help club members work on skill-building activities and projects (such as drama, music, handmade items and cooking) and Game Awards.

The DELTA Large Group curriculum:

- is designed for grades 1-6
- works well for churches ministering to lots of kids
- enables churches to minister to multiple age levels in a large group while retaining important small-group relational time
- allows churches to instruct kids across age levels with the *same* Bible lesson each week
- provides easy-to-use Bible studies with life application
- allows volunteers to use their individual strengths and giftedness
- provides undated material that fits into 1 1/2 to 2 hours
- includes 6 complete units with 4 meetings each—a total of 24 meetings—plus 3 additional skits
- includes the option of purchasing and downloading a supplementary **DELTA Special Event Pak**, which provides 6 special events (3 holiday events and 3 unique events) to increase the total number of meetings to 30
- encourages and affirms all kids through a noncompetitive award-incentive program

Meeting Options

You may:

- combine all grades for the Large Group time, Skill Award time and Games Award time and separate by grade level for Small Group time *only*—or separate by grade level (1-2, 3-4, 5-6) after the Large Group time for all activities
- form small groups by grades and/or gender (example: grades 1-2—Hiker boys; grades 1-2—Hiker girls)
- use all three age divisions or choose just one or two based on the number of children you have in club and their age levels
- run the entire program in small groups—have the Small Group Leader lead the large group lesson and Small Group time and rotate with other small groups (grouped by age levels and/or gender) for Skill Award time and Games Award time

The designated area for the weekly Large Group time should allow all club members 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, Games Award time and Skill Award time. 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 ———

- **Pioneer Clubs DELTA** 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 club 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 Bible Exploration follow-up and Scripture memory work. Small Groups work best with 8-10 club members per leader. Small Group Leaders play a key role in connecting with kids and helping them grow spiritually. *Small Group Leader Planbooks* give leaders appropriate follow-up questions, activities, Bible memory teaching techniques and instructions for *Kids Handbook* use. Small Group Leaders will communicate supply needs to Supply Aide(s). Small Group Leaders also accompany club members to Skill Award time and Games Award time, where they help kids complete awards.
- **Skill Award Coordinator** recruits team members with specific talents or interests to lead weekly Skill Award activities. He or she communicates supply needs for the Skill Awards to the Supply Aides.
- **Games Coach** chooses and leads the Games Award each week for each unit. Grade levels may be combined for games or may play separately.
- **Supply Aide(s)** gather needed supplies and equipment, as directed, for Skill Award time, Games Award 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 DELTA club meetings.
- **Prayer Pals** support your Pioneer Clubs ministry by praying regularly for a specific Small Group or individual club members. Small Group Leaders may call or email assigned Prayer Pal(s) to request specific prayer support for club members.

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

DELTA

DELTA ESSENTIAL CLUB RESOURCES

Large Group Leader Planbook

Used by: Large Group Leaders

Purpose: Lists supplies and extra helpers needed for Large Group time and contains scripted Bible Explorations, Bible Memory and prayer content.

Small Group Leader Planbooks, for three grade levels: Hiker (1-2), Adventurer (3-4) and Navigator (5-6)

Used by: Small Group Leaders

Purpose: Contains scripted Bible Exploration follow-up, Bible Memory and prayers and gives instructions for the Kids Handbook.

Kids Handbook for three grade levels: Hiker (1-2), Adventurer (3-4) and Navigator (5-6)

Used by: each club member, Small Group Leaders, Skill Award and Games Award Coordinator(s)

Purpose: Used in Small Group time every week to reinforce Bible teaching and application. Also contains instructions and requirements for all Skill Awards and Games Awards.

DELTA emblem, lanyard and stickers

Used by: each club member and leader

Purpose: The front of the DELTA emblem has been designed to serve as a name badge for everyone involved in club. For club members it is also used to display Bible Awards, Skill Awards and Games Awards earned during club. Emblems are worn on a lanyard around each child's neck. Small triangle stickers, which color coordinate to each year's curriculum, are placed on the appropriate areas on the emblem and designate awards earned.



DELTA award pins

Used by: each club member at the end of the club year

Purpose: DELTA award pins represent the completion of all six Bible Awards, Skill Awards and Games Awards for the club year. There is one pin available for each award area. Pins can be worn on the lanyard or displayed by club members some other way.



DELTA 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 club members where they are and gets them thinking about the lesson theme.
- Scripture—gets club members into God's Word to discover how it applies to their everyday lives.
- Application—helps club members 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.

SMALL GROUP TIME

Each small group offers a relational time for club members and Small Group Leaders. The Small Group Leader is the facilitator who helps club members more fully understand the Bible Exploration lesson, which was 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 club members come to faith in Christ and grow spiritually
- pray for and with their club members
- connect with club parents, helping families get or stay connected to the church

Each Small Group time has four sections:

- **Bible Exploration**—The Small Group Leader follows up on the Large Group Bible Exploration with discussion questions and activities provided in the Small Group Bible Exploration books, which also indicate when club members use handbooks appropriate to their grade level: Hiker (1-2), Adventurer (3-4), Navigator (5-6). The *Kids Handbook* and other activities get club members involved, making decisions on how they will apply what they've learned. Club members earn six Bible Awards with *Knowing God's Love*, one for each unit. Receiving awards reinforces the feeling of accomplishment for completing a unit.
- **Bible Memory**—Plans suggest helpful teaching techniques to assist club members in learning the three verses chosen for each unit. Bible Memory Cards and Memory Verse Stickers help reinforce learning and achievement.
- **Chart Progress**—Leaders keep track of award work on Award Record Sheets.
- **Prayer**—*Small Group Leader Planbooks* include specific prayers or suggested prayer formats that involve club members.



AWARDS DISPLAY

The reproducible Award Record Sheet (inside back cover of the *Small Group Leader Planbook*) will help you keep track of who has earned which awards. When your club completes a unit (4 meetings), each club member who has fully completed the requirements will have earned a Bible Award, a Skill Award and a Games Award. Each child who has done so will receive awards in the form of small triangle stickers to place on the back of the DELTA emblem. The DELTA Coordinator should provide these award stickers to each Small Group Leader. To maximize effectiveness, leaders are encouraged to distribute all awards earned at the end of each unit. Awards create a unique incentive approach for kids because:

- club members celebrate Bible knowledge and skill development by gaining recognition for their achievements.
- award work helps them to learn teamwork and cooperation.
- working together and earning awards allow them to experience peer appreciation.



SMALL GROUP SUPPLIES

We've designed the Small Group Bible Exploration activities to work using 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. Glitter glue is a fun extra for drawing and decorating activities. 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 club members (Navigators). You may prefer to keep handbooks with Small Group supplies so they don't get misplaced.



SKILL AWARD TIME

Skill Awards, which provide fun with friends in a Christian environment as well as building life skills, cover four general categories: the arts, hobbies and projects, outdoors and activities that develop personal and social skills. Club members earn one Skill Award each unit. Club members work on the Skill Award for all four weeks of the unit they're doing.

The Skill Award Coordinator selects appropriate options from the *Kids Handbook* to complete each Skill Award and communicates supply needs to the Supply Aide(s). Supply instructions may indicate, for example, "for every club member: 1 plastic half gallon milk container." The Supply Aide(s) will need to know how many kids or groups to gather supplies for. Small Group Leaders accompany their groups to Skill Award time. Their responsibility is to encourage the kids and help them complete their Skill Award requirements.

GAMES AWARD TIME

Games Award time gives club members a chance to develop physical skills in a setting where they're also exposed to game-related values such as being a good sport. Club members work on each Games Award for all four weeks of the unit they're doing.

Divide club members into teams, multi-age groups or pairs to get appropriate group sizes for games chosen. Let groups play simultaneously. This will make conducting the games easier and playing them more enjoyable for everyone.

OPTION FOR SKILL AWARD & GAMES AWARD TIMES

- Clubs may conduct three different activity groups based on grade/age levels, each with its own Skill Award Coordinator and Games Coach. Skill Award Coordinators and Games Coaches should plan their overall program in cooperation with other age levels' Skill Award Coordinators and Games Coaches.
- Very large churches may choose to operate in a "station rotation" model for each age level or for all age levels. For example, while the Hiker Small Groups are involved with the Skill Award, the Navigators may be engaged in Small Group time and the Adventurers may be taking part in the Games Award time. Each age level rotates to the next activity when the allotted time is up.

HOW TO LEAD A CHILD TO CHRIST

One Bible Exploration during Small Group time in each DELTA unit includes a Salvation Challenge in the Application section. To be ready to present Jesus as Savior to club members, remember that salvation is:

- receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, not merely believing a text or repeating a prayer
- meant to be a relationship with a loving Lord who changes our lives

Kids need to understand some simple, basic facts so they can appreciate Jesus' sacrificial death and accept Him as their Savior and Lord. Depend on the work of the Holy Spirit to guide you and prepare your club members.

When club members want to talk more about salvation, be sure these points are clear:

- God loves us. (John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9)
- We have all done wrong and this wrong—called sin—prevents us from having a relationship with God who is holy. (Romans 3:21; 6:23; Isaiah 53:6)
- Jesus died and rose again to pay for our sin and provide us forgiveness, which allows us to have a relationship with God. (1 Timothy 1:15; Hebrews 7:27; 1 John 2:2)
- To receive God's forgiveness, we must accept Jesus as our Savior. (John 3:36; Acts 13:38-39)
- When we do this, we become God's children. (John 1:12; 5:24; 10:28)
- God gives His children eternal life and promises to be with us always. (John 5:24; Matthew 28:20)

If a child does not indicate readiness to accept Jesus as Savior, don't push. Be aware that this may not be the time for that child to make a decision.

If a child has prayed to receive Jesus as Savior, review the Scripture from the Bible Exploration. Be sure the child understands what has happened and that now he or she is a member of God's family. Continue to encourage the child to grow spiritually.

FOLLOW-UP MATERIALS

- *Becoming a Child of God*—brochure for grades 1-6 that explains the plan of salvation.
- *Belonging to God's Family*—booklet for grades 1-2
- *Learning More About Jesus*—booklet for grades 3-6
- See Club Room Resources at www.pioneerclubs.org/shop for these booklets.
- Daily Watch books—fun devotional books for grades 3-6: *Searching God's Word* and *Adventures with God*. See Special Events and Gifts at www.pioneerclubs.org/shop.

PROMOTING YOUR DELTA CLUB

Getting Kids to DELTA

Use photos of past club events to add interest to bulletin inserts, letters, posters, banners—even press releases. Here are some suggestions for promoting club to kids at your church and in your community:

- Bulletin announcements
- Flyers handed out in church and posted around your neighborhood on public bulletin boards such as at the local public library, stores, schools, etc. (Get permission first.)
- Incentives to encourage your church kids to invite their friends
- DELTA club postcards mailed to VBS and Sunday school participants
- Press releases to local media
- Announcements on your church's website
- Door hangers created by you or purchased from Pioneer Clubs to announce the start of club at your church. (Get permission first.)

Getting Families and Other Adults Involved

Communicate regularly with club families. Send home lists of the awards you're working on along with Bible memory verses to review. Or compile a club parent email list gathered at registration and email club updates to them.

Encourage participation by adults other than club parents by publicizing needs for experts in certain areas for Skill Awards.

Encourage prayer for and interest in club by continuing to promote club activities and news in your church's announcements, website, emails and newsletters.

ORDERING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Shop online at www.pioneerclubs.org/shop to order helpful resources for DELTA, such as:

- award stickers, emblems, award pins and lanyards
- Memory Verse Stickers
- game books
- Pioneer Clubs T-shirts
- DELTA Special Events Pak (six special events to use throughout the year)
- additional copies of the *Kids Handbook*

FREE E-NEWSLETTER HELPS YOU RUN DELTA EFFECTIVELY

All member churches receive a FREE monthly Pioneer Clubs Leaders eNewsletter. Each month leaders receive tips, tools, insights and inspiring stories to help make their DELTA club program a success. Ideas for special events and handy to-do lists are just a few of the valuable resources created especially for club coordinators and leaders.

Be sure to register all of your club leaders with one of our ministry services staff members, so leaders can each enjoy and learn from this free member benefit. You'll be surprised at the difference it will make in your club program!

