



TRAILBLAZER

Exploring New Trails



PIONEER CLUBS IS A FUN PLACE WHERE KIDS...

- learn Christian values
- grow spiritually
- study, memorize and apply Scripture
- learn practical life skills
- develop lifelong Christian friendships

Pioneer Clubs Theme Verse

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path."
Psalm 119:105 (KJV)

Aim

That we may glorify the Lord Jesus.

Motto

"Looking unto Jesus."
Hebrews 12:2a (KJV)

Slogan

Christ in every aspect of life

Theme Song

"Thy Word"

Colors

blue and red

Salute



"Thy
word is a
lamp



unto my
feet,



and a
light
unto my
path"

Introduction

PIONEER CLUBS CURRICULUM GOALS

This book has been written to provide you, a Pioneer Clubs leader, with complete lesson plans that will ensure your club ministry is accomplishing the Pioneer Clubs curriculum goals:

1. To enable children to enter into a personal relationship with Christ and to know his Word.
 - a. By presenting Christ as Savior and Lord, the club program gives children opportunities to experience salvation and grow spiritually.
 - b. By training children to study Scripture and apply it to daily life, club prepares them to exercise Christian responsibility in their church, community and world.
2. To enable children to form healthy relationships.
 - a. By teaching biblical purposes for the family and by recognizing sociological influences, this program helps children learn how to be contributing members in various family situations.
 - b. By teaching that God created people to be interdependent, the club program leads children to develop healthy relationships with both peers and adults.
3. To enable children to grow as whole persons.
 - a. By presenting biblical values and characteristics of persons made in God's image, club assists children in developing positive attitudes toward God, themselves and others.
 - b. By providing opportunities to develop a variety of skills and abilities, club helps children experience achievement and grow physically, mentally, socially, emotionally and spiritually.
4. To enable adults to understand children and help them develop.
 - a. Through its curriculum and supplementary materials, the club program teaches child development and Christian values.
 - b. Through involvement in the club ministry, adults are encouraged in their personal and spiritual growth.

Pioneer Clubs' Philosophy of Christian Education

Children are whole beings created in God's image, with spiritual capacity to have a relationship with Jesus Christ that develops as they grow

and mature in a nurturing Christian community.

Pioneer Clubs' Psychology of Learning

Children are holistic learners—knowing, feeling and doing—and are eager to participate actively in meaningful learning experiences appropriate for their development and learning style.

Pioneer Clubs' Theological Beliefs

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died and rose again to provide redemption for each person. Children will be given opportunities to make a personal commitment to Christ according to their spiritual readiness. Children will be taught a biblical worldview. They will learn that God's Word is our rule for faith and practice, and they will decide how to apply it to their everyday life.

ESSENTIAL PROGRAM RESOURCES

Meeting Plans for Trailblazer Leaders and the *Trailblazer Handbook* for club members are essential resources for an effective and successful Pioneer Clubs ministry.

Meeting Plans for Trailblazer Leaders

Each plan book contains resources for a kick-off meeting, 28 regular meetings and one holiday meeting; seven reproducible Parent Pages; a reproducible Award Chart; an age characteristics chart; club organizational tips; and suggestions for games. Each participating leader in your club should have a meeting plan book.

Trailblazer Handbook for Club Members

Handbooks are used in all regular club meetings during the Bible Exploration & Award time and for activity awards. The two handbooks correspond with the two leader plan books: *Exploring New Trails* and *Exploring the Way*. Each handbook lists requirements for 7 Bible awards and 19 activity awards (for *Exploring the Way*) or 17 activity awards (for *Exploring New Trails*).

Every participating club member must have a handbook to record his or her thoughts, ideas and responses to Bible Exploration & Award discussions. Club members will also use handbooks to complete the skill-building activity award

requirements. Pioneer Clubs recommends that you have one or two extra handbooks on hand for guests or visitors to use.

Bible Awards

By participating in the Bible Exploration & Award portion of the club meeting, club members will earn one Bible award for each unit completed. Club members have the opportunity to earn 14 Bible awards while they are Trailblazers. Seven Bible awards are covered in this leader plan book. The remaining seven are in the other Trailblazer plan book.

You're encouraged to distribute all awards earned in a unit during the last meeting of each unit.



Bible Memory Cards & Stickers

Club members will memorize 21 verses during the Bible Memory part of the meetings in each leader plan book. An additional 21 optional verses are included each year if your group is ready for this added challenge.

Because all main memory verses are discussed during Bible Exploration & Award time, club members will have a good understanding of what the verses mean and how the verses apply to their daily lives.

Give club members Bible Memory Cards to take home, to help them review their verses throughout the week. When club members can demonstrate they know a verse, give them a Bible Memory Sticker to put in the appropriate spot on the chart inside the back cover of their handbook.

Activity Awards

Each unit includes requirements to complete at least two activity awards. The activity awards cover five categories:

- Arts & Communication
- Myself, My Family & Others
- Hobbies & Projects
- Outdoors & Nature
- Sports & Games

Pioneer Clubs' skill-building activities are a wonderful way to introduce club members to new skills, strengthen areas of interest, enrich their lives and have fun with friends in a Christian environment. Leaders are encouraged to invite other adults with expertise in appropriate skill areas to assist with activity awards.

Bible awards and activity awards provide a meaningful way for club members to sense accomplishment, broaden interests and abilities and gain self-confidence. Since Bible awards and activity awards are completed during club meetings and events, all regularly participating club members will receive awards. The Pioneer Clubs atmosphere is one of cooperation, teamwork and mutual support, not competition or rivalry.

To ensure that the awards provide lasting positive reinforcement for club members, select an award display method that will be meaningful to your group. Pioneer Clubs offers several fun and creative award display options from which to choose.



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Units may be completed in any order. Once you select a unit, the four meetings within that unit must be done in sequence to maintain continuity. There is enough material in each meeting to last 1 1/2 to 2 hours. If you meet for less time, adjust the plan to make sure you cover these core meeting essentials: Bible Exploration & Award, Bible Memory, the 1st or 2nd Activity Award and Prayer.

Meeting Preparation

Before each meeting: review the Bible Exploration & Award aims, read the entire meeting, assign meeting part responsibilities, select one Bible Exploration Focus option, prepare all the "Do Ahead" parts, read the Scriptures used, read the *Trailblazer Handbook* sections used in the meeting, gather supplies and prayerfully consider the Prepare Your Heart section.

Meeting Schedule

All Trailblazer meetings follow the same general schedule, although the times allotted may vary by 5-10 minutes depending

GET READY—5-10 minutes
1ST ACTIVITY AWARD—20-30 minutes
BIBLE EXPLORATION & AWARD—15-25 minutes
BIBLE MEMORY—5-10 minutes
2ND ACTIVITY AWARD—20-30 minutes
GAMES (optional)
SERVICE PROJECT (optional)—activities suggested in the first meeting of each unit
PRAYER—5-10 minutes

on the size of your group and the needs of individual meetings' Bible Exploration & Award discussions or activity award projects.

Meeting Options

You are encouraged to organize the meeting schedule to meet your time frame, facilities, club structure and club member needs. Many clubs begin or end their meetings with an all-club singing time. If your group chooses to do this, you will need to adjust your meeting plan accordingly. Snacks can also be a part of your club time.

Because many of the units use skits as part of the Bible Exploration & Award discussion or in an activity award, you may

want to set up a costume box to help your club members get into character. Collect old clothing and a variety of hats and accessories. Old sheets, towels and odd lengths of material can combine with rope, belts or sashes to make Bible-times costumes.

Suggested Extra Events

Consider holding one or two special events during the year. These events may be done with other Pioneer Clubs age divisions or just Trailblazers. Many activity award Extra Credit options recommend projects or activities your club could do as special events. Other suggestions include:

- **Kids for Kids Hike** (see www.pioneerclubs.org)
- **Bowling Party**
- **Camping or Cookout**
- **Christmas Caroling**
- **Camp Cherith® information event** (see www.pioneerclubs.org)

For additional ideas, order *Parties and Special Events* (item #2721) from Pioneer Clubs.

Involving Parents

Photocopy the corresponding Parent Page for each unit you use and distribute to parents at the beginning of a new unit. Encourage parents to discuss with their child the ideas and questions listed, and ask them to help their child learn the memory verses.

Invite parents to help with special events or skill-building activity awards. Parents could also provide a snack or help with transportation. Be sure to invite parents to meetings when children are receiving their awards.

EXPLAINING SALVATION

Salvation Opportunities

Salvation is a relationship with a loving Lord who changes our lives when we confess our sins and express belief in Jesus Christ. At least one Bible Exploration & Award time in each unit contains a Salvation Challenge, with an appropriate salvation prayer. You're encouraged to adapt other lessons to include the plan of salvation. Depend on the work of the Holy Spirit to guide and prepare your club members' hearts.

You will find numerous opportunities to talk about spiritual things with club members during Bible Exploration & Award times, activity times and throughout the meeting. Scheduling time to talk individually with club members about their spiritual concerns would also be helpful. You may wish to ask questions such as:

- How did you learn about Pioneer Clubs?
- Where do you and your family attend church?
- What are you learning about Jesus during Bible Exploration & Award times?
- What questions do you have about God, Jesus and the Bible?

Helpful Scriptures

Club members need to know some simple, basic facts so they can appreciate Jesus' sacrificial death and accept him as their Savior and Lord. Be sure these points are clear:

- God loves us. —John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9
 - We have done wrong and this wrong is called sin by God. Sin prevents a relationship with God, who is holy. —Romans 3:21; 6:23; Isaiah 53:6
 - Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sin. —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 us new and fulfilling lives. —John 10:10, 2 Corinthians 5:17; 2 Peter 1:3
- When explaining salvation to a club member, you may wish to use Pioneer Clubs' *Becoming a Child of God* (item #6794). Also remember to:
- Use language your club member can understand.
 - Make the Scripture personal by discussing it in terms of your club member.
 - Let your club member explain what the Scripture means.
 - Don't pressure a club member to make a decision; wait until he or she is ready.
 - If a club member has prayed to receive Jesus into his or her life, review the Scripture and be sure the child understands what has happened and that now he or she is a member of God's family.



- Continue to encourage your club member to grow spiritually by having him or her read Pioneer Clubs' *Learning More About Jesus* (#6792) salvation follow-up brochure or one of Pioneer Clubs' daily devotional books (#6793, 6795).
- Encourage attendance at Sunday school and church.

TEACHING TIPS

Arrive early.
Be prepared.
Accept individual differences.
Listen to children.
Know club members' names.
Provide choices.
Be friendly and loving.
Establish a few rules.
Tell club members what to call you.
Praise and encourage children.

Discipline Tips

If you're well prepared, know your plan for the meeting, have supplies ready and start on time, discipline challenges will be reduced. Pioneer Clubs views discipline as a tool to nurture children and help them grow.



SAMPLE CLUB RULES

Discuss what behavior will be acceptable in club and plan your discipline guidelines before the first club meeting. Create a discipline plan that builds and encourages positive behavior in children. Determine what the consequences will be

Encourages personal reflection for the leader.

Lesson theme and Bible award title.

Each part of the meeting plan indicates a suggested duration for that part. Your actual times will depend on factors like how many club members you have.

Each lesson corresponds with a requirement from the club member's handbook. Unit titles are the same as Bible award titles. Club members earn one Bible award when completing a unit.

UNIT 7 MEETING 25 • LIVING TODAY

PREPARE YOUR HEART

Consider what the Lord would like to say to you regarding your own viewing habits.

States lesson aims. When you finish leading the lesson, you can determine if aims were met.

Lists Scripture that will be studied and memory verses. May provide background Scripture for leaders to review.

Lists all supplies needed for each meeting part, except for Bibles, pencils, scratch paper and an easel pad or board, which will be needed in most meetings.

Provides a get-acquainted game or warm-up activity related to the study topic.

Outlines advance preparation for each section of the meeting.

Gives advance notice of unusual preparation or supplies. NOTE: Sometimes you may want to schedule an extra meeting before the end of a unit, to help club members who have missed one or more meetings complete award requirements.

Bible Exploration & Award Aims:

Club members will:

- practice using biblical standards to evaluate a TV program.
- want to evaluate their own viewing habits according to biblical standards.

Scripture:

Philippians 4:8

Bible Memory:

Philippians 4:8; extra verse: Psalm 26:2

Supplies:

GET READY—none

1st ACTIVITY AWARD—optional: copies of invitation (p. 59)

BIBLE EXPLORATION—supplies for Focus of your choice (Snacks—two plates, two covers for plates, snack item for each member, food garbage; Discussion—none); recording of part of a TV program and playback equipment, index cards

BIBLE MEMORY—for each member: Memory Verse Sticker, Bible Memory Card

2nd ACTIVITY AWARD—for each group: 4 bowls, hot water, cold water, measuring cups and spoons, vegetable oil, liquid laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid

GAMES—your choice

PRAYER—copies of Unit 7 Parent Page (p. 77)

Next Meeting's Preparation:

- Locate recording equipment for Broadcasting award.
- Ask club members to bring in recordings of their favorite songs. Decide if you want to approve the songs ahead of time or set ground rules.
- Be ready to plant plants for Environment award.

Visual Media

GET READY 5-10 MINUTES

• Do Ahead:

Gather supplies.

Have a volunteer name a TV show. Each club member, in turn, must name a show that begins with the last letter of the last show mentioned. Club members may name present or past TV shows. If someone is unable to come up with a name, skip to the next player. *Option:* Simply let club members see how many TV shows they can name.

We're going to talk today about how TV affects us. Open with prayer.

BROADCASTING ACTIVITY AWARD 20-30 MINUTES

• Do Ahead:

Read the Broadcasting Activity Award (handbook p. 47). Decide whether to do a TV or radio program based on what equipment is available. Decide when to "broadcast" the program for requirement 4, "Broadcast your program," and what guests to invite. For example, you could broadcast during Meeting 28's Award Celebration for the guests you've invited to that.

Today, plan to help club members work through all options in requirement 1, "Plan a program."

Tell club members what medium they will be using. Work with them to decide on a type of program, name for the program, what jobs need to be done and who will do them. Divide into groups to plan the jobs. Have the script writers work on a script.

Tell club members who to invite for the program's broadcast.



BIBLE EXPLORATION & AWARD 20-25 MINUTES



• Do Ahead:

Familiarize yourself with Bible award requirement 1, "How Does It Rate?" (handbook p. 37), and this Bible Exploration. Record part of a TV program appropriate for club members to watch and rate for Bible award requirement 1. *Option:* Choose a show that you can play on a computer.

Choose and prepare one of the Focus options. If you choose the Snacks Focus, put a snack for each club member on one plate and some food garbage (empty candy wrappers, banana peel, etc.) on the other. Cover each plate with a small towel or box.

Focus (choose 1 option)

Option 1—Snacks:

Set out the two covered plates, and designate them Plate 1 and Plate 2. Ask club members to choose which plate they would like a snack from and form a group which everyone else chooses the same plate. If no one chooses the plate that you know is the "garbage" plate, ask for volunteers to choose it.

Okay, here are the snacks you chose. Hand each plate to the appropriate group and let club members take off the covers. After club members react, have the group with the snack plate share with the other group.

• Why would you choose the snacks over the garbage?

• What does "garbage in, garbage out" mean?

"Garbage in, garbage out" can also have to do with what we put into our minds. There are a lot of times in our everyday lives when we have to decide whether what we're putting in our minds is garbage or good stuff. Today we're going to talk about garbage and good stuff as they relate to TV shows, DVDs and video games.

Option 2—Discussion:

• What's your favorite TV show, DVD or video game? Why?

• If you were a parent, how would you decide which TV shows, DVDs or video games were okay for your kids to watch or play?

Two activity awards are included in meetings. You may do one or both as time permits. Requirements come from the club member handbook; you may replace any activity in the plan with other options listed in the handbook. Club members may complete one to three activity awards in a unit.

Introductory section of the Bible Exploration & Award time. Generally, two Focus options are given. Select the one you feel would best help your group.

Explores what the Bible says on a given topic. Club members will need their handbooks, Bibles and pencils.

Creative teaching techniques help club members learn Scripture. Verses to be memorized are discussed during Bible Exploration & Award, ensuring comprehension.

Study Scripture

Today we're going to rate a TV program. Instead of basing our rating on how many people are watching it or which "popular" people like it, we're going to let the Bible help us decide how good it is.

Read Philippians 4:8 together.

- What would be an example of a thought that is true? Continue with examples for several words in the verse.
- What would be an example of a thought that is *not* true? Continue with other words in the verse.
- How do our thoughts affect the rest of our beings? (What we put into our minds will eventually show up in what we say and how we feel; people have been known to "act out" what they have seen on TV or in the movies; etc.)
- How could this verse help us rate a TV program, video game, or DVD? (If the program or game helps us think the kinds of thoughts listed in this verse, it's worth seeing and thinking about. If it keeps us from thinking thoughts like these, then it's not worth it.)

Apply

Let's rate a program now. Turn to page 37 in your handbooks, requirement 1, "How Does It Rate?" Read the instructions together. Then watch the program you chose. Periodically encourage club members to watch for things that will affect their ratings. If commercials are shown, discuss the ways they influence us, as well.

Remember that the rating scale won't be foolproof. Club members will respond to the program differently and, therefore, rate it differently. This exercise should, however, encourage them to think about the programs they watch, rather than passively absorbing all messages.

- What's your rating of this program? Why did you give it that rating? Discuss. Allow for differences of opinion.
- How can TV programs, DVDs, and video games affect us negatively? (We can adopt poor values they show, feel fearful or have nightmares, think some things are not really wrong if they are shown as funny or attractive, spend too much time doing these things instead of other things, etc.)
- How can TV programs, DVDs, and video games affect us positively? (We can learn educational information, understand news and world events, enjoy clean entertainment, have fun with friends, etc.)

- Why do you think Jesus would care what we watch or play? (He is holy, he values us and wants what's best for us, what we put into our minds affects how we act and how we relate to him and others.)

Hand out index cards. Think of a TV show, DVD, or video game to rate this week, using the rating scale in the Bible award. Write its title on the card. Allow time. If some club members' families don't watch/play any of these things, suggest they rate a book.

After you rate it, talk it over with God and make a decision about whether or not it's worth watching or playing again. At our next meeting, let us know how you rated it and what you decided to do about it.

Close in prayer. Ask one or two volunteers to ask God for wisdom to evaluate their viewing habits.

BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MINUTES

Do Ahead:

Memorize Philippians 4:8.

Hand out Bible Memory Cards for Philippians 4:8. Today's verse tells us what should fill up our minds; it's not just a way to evaluate TV or games. Let's make up a creative memorization aid. Have club members create a sentence using the first letters of the key words in this verse. For example, if the key words are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy, the sentence could be, "The neighbor raised purebred labs and excited poodles."

Remembering a sentence like this is easier than remembering the order of the words in the verse. Write the sentence on the board or easel pad. Erase one word at a time. Have club members repeat the whole verse each time.

Hand out Memory Verse Stickers.

▼ **Extra verse (optional):** Memorize Psalm 26:2 together.

ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITY AWARD 20-25 MINUTES



Do Ahead:

Read the Environment Activity Award (hand-

book p. 91). Gather supplies to do the first option, "Oil Spill Cleanup," under requirement 1, "Understand environmental threats." (Or choose a different option, if you prefer.) Also be ready to discuss requirement 2, "Understand God's concern."

Help small groups of club members follow the directions in the handbook to test the options for cleaning feathers.

Also discuss requirement 2 together. Tell club members that they will be doing a project to help the environment in the community.

SERVICE PROJECT (OPTIONAL)

Community Cleanup

In this unit, help club members tackle one of today's problems—pollution. Check with church and community leaders to find an area that club members can clean up, such as the church property, a stream, a road, or a park. *Things to consider:* getting parental permission, keeping kids safe, getting families involved.

GAMES (OPTIONAL)

Choose games from pages 78-79.

PRAYER 5-10 MINUTES

Do Ahead:

Gather supplies.

Give each club member a Unit 7 Parent Page (p. 77) to take home. Or hand it to parents when they pick up their kids.

Pray in unison, "Dear Lord, help us choose shows and games that are (*recite the list of words from Philippians 4:8*)."

LEADER REFLECTION

How can you encourage the club members to *want* to monitor their viewing and video game habits?

One service project is suggested for each unit. Clubs choose those they want to complete throughout the year. Do as many as you wish.

The games section in each plan book lists many games to choose from, including holiday games.

A variety of closing prayer methods encourages participation in a non-threatening way. Prayer time will bring closure to your meetings and help club members think about what God is teaching them through his Word.

Helps you sense what was accomplished during Bible Exploration & Award and where you can go from there.

Provides opportunity for club members to consider how God's Word applies to their lives. They will take steps to actually live according to the biblical principle taught during the study.

Two activity awards are included in meetings. You may do one or both as time permits. Requirements come from the club member handbook; you may replace any activity in the plan with other options listed in the handbook. Club members may complete one to three activity awards in a unit.

help develop your group's discipline guidelines, and let parents know the rules, too.

Club rules should:

- total no more than five
- be easy to understand
- describe observable, measurable behavior
- be stated positively
- be age appropriate

TRAINING RESOURCES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Pioneer Clubs provides several ways for you to receive training as a club leader.

Training

Pioneer Clubs offers training periodically dealing with specific topics of interest to club leaders, such as:

- basic training
- group discipline that works

Pioneer Clubs informs leaders of special training through email, so be sure to provide Pioneer Clubs headquarters with your email address. If you don't have email, ask your club coordinator to let you know when training sessions are offered.

eNewsletter

As a registered leader, you are entitled to receive Pioneer Clubs' FREE monthly email newsletter, which provides helpful suggestions and ideas that will enhance your club experience. You may sign up for this special newsletter on the Pioneer Clubs website: www.pioneerclubs.org.

Website—www.pioneerclubs.org

Pioneer Clubs' website has lots of helpful information and resources, such as:

- special meeting plans
- tips on discipline and promoting your club
- Kids for Kids Hike information and planning suggestions



How to Order Material

Leaders from registered churches may order material in four ways:

Phone:
800-694-CLUB (2582)



Online Store:
www.pioneerclubs.org



Fax:
800-619-CLUB (2582)



Mail:
PO Box 788
Wheaton, IL 60187-0788 USA

