



Guidelines for using the Curriculum in Homeschool or After School Care Settings

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

PrimeTime®Plus is designed for use with young people between the ages of 12 and 14. It aims to help young people develop positive relationships with program leaders, learn about God, develop a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ, and introduce them to a life of Christian discipleship.

Yearly Schedule

The curriculum is presented with a yearly schedule with sessions one day a week for 40 weeks, corresponding to a typical school year. The material is also suited to a homeschool or after school care setting and can be adapted and expanded for use three or five days a week. For homeschoolers the material can be used in the home or with groups that you belong to.

FRAMEWORK

The curriculum includes an overview of the themes, titles, and Bible passage for each session. There are special sessions designed for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines and Easter. Each session in the curriculum builds on earlier ones, so you will want to use them in order as much as possible.

LEADER PREPARATION

SESSION GOAL: primary focus for the session

KEY VERSE: the key verse from the Bible passage

SESSION DESCRIPTION: overview of the session

BIBLE BACKGROUND: commentary on the session's Bible passage to help leaders prepare

LIST OF MATERIALS: a list of what you need for that session

THOUGHTS: insights for leaders

IDEAS: additional suggestions for the leaders to share with the young people

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Part 1: Welcome

MUSIC: suggested songs to play and sing along as young people arrive

CONVERSATION: questions or activities to help the young people settle in

LAST WEEK'S KEY VERSE: Review of the key verse from the previous week

Part 2: Prime Time

LESSON INTRODUCTION: questions that help young people begin to think about the theme

SCRIPTURE READING: an introduction and Bible passage to read

WHOLE-GROUP ACTIVITY: an activity to help the young people explore the passage

SMALL-GROUP DISCUSSION: discussion questions for use in small groups

SMALL-GROUP PRAYER TIME: a time for sharing and prayer – individual, family, school, community, and world needs

Part 3: Wrap Up

KEY VERSE ACTIVITY: an activity that helps young people learn the key verse for that session

SHARE IT: a suggested comment from the session for sharing with friends

PRAYER: a closing prayer

Part 4: Lesson Extensions

Each session includes extension options for use in an extended program or for encouraging young people to continue reflecting during the week. These activities may also be used, adapted, and expanded for use on three and five day programs. (Additional games can be found in Kid's Play!, available from Scripture Union)

PRIMETIME® PLUS TAKE-HOME PAGES

The curriculum includes ten take home sheets that can be duplicated and used with the young people every four weeks. Each sheet includes a prayer, a Bible reading plan, a Bible study strategy, a special focus for the month, and a bookmark with the key verses.

Ways to tell and explore a Bible passage

- Read the Bible passage directly.
- Tell the story in first person.
- Re-tell the story orally and together. The storyteller will deliberately leave out words for the listeners to fill in. Storyteller could also deliberately use the wrong word.
- Role play the story.
- Create a drama (even if it's just a 2 person dialogue.)
- Sequence the story.
- Use a video.
- Use pictures such as those from FreeBibleImages.com to create a slideshow of the story.

PRIMETIME® PLUS FOR HOMESCHOOL AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE USE

Suggestions for using the curriculum 1 day a week

- **Part 1: Welcome**
 - ✓ Start with a **prayer** and use one of the suggested **songs**.
 - ✓ Use the **conversation** questions to open the session.
 - ✓ Review last week's **key verse** (from week 2 onwards).
- **Part 2: PrimeTime**
 - ✓ Introduce the theme by going through the lesson introduction.
 - ✓ Read the **Bible passage** together.
 - ✓ Use the **whole-group or small-group activities or discussion questions** to further explore the **Bible passage**.
 - ✓ Talk about **prayer needs** and pray together - individual, family, school, community, and world needs.
- **Part 3: Wrap Up**
 - ✓ Review the **key verse** and its meaning.
 - ✓ Encourage the participants to share the **'share it'** comment this week via text, e-mail, regular mail, or Meme, etc., before the next session.
 - ✓ Close with **prayer**.
- **Part 4: Lesson Extensions**
 - ✓ If you have time, use one **activity, craft, project, or game** suited to the size of your group.

Suggestions for extending the program over 3 days a week

Day 1

- **Part 1: Welcome**
 - ✓ Start with a **prayer** and one of the suggested songs.
 - ✓ Use a **conversation** question to open the session.
 - ✓ **Review** last week's **key verse** (from week 2 onwards).

Option 3: Don't Follow That Leader!

Form a small group. Develop two or three situations in which the leader is someone you would *not* want to follow.

Here is an example of a situation to inspire your thinking:

You and your friends walk the same way to school every day. One morning, an older teen who leads a local gang approaches your group. He says that if you want to keep walking this way to school, you have to deliver a package that contains drugs to some kids at your school.

Pick one of the stories you created and work with your group to figure out a good way to get out of the situation. Develop and rehearse a skit to demonstrate how the situation might be handled in a positive way. Present your skit to the rest of the group. Follow up with a discussion of the positive methods you used to resolve the situation.

Option 4: Persuade Your Peers

Write a speech entitled, "It's What's Inside that Counts," directed towards young people your age. Think about the influences surrounding you, especially on television, in magazines, and online, that try to convince you to worry most about your appearance and what other people think about you. How can you convince young people your age that it's what's inside that counts, in spite of all the messages they receive to the contrary? Present your persuasive speech to the rest of the group.

Part 3: WRAP UP**KEY VERSE ACTIVITY:**

Read the Key Verse aloud and ask the young people to repeat it back to you. Have the young people walk around the room, reciting the verse. Then ask them to link arms with one other person and recite the verse together. Then ask that pair to link arms with another pair, and all four recite the verse together. Groups will continue to link up and recite the verse until the whole group is linked up and reciting the verse together.

Share It:

*"If a blind person leads another who is blind, both of them will fall into a pit" (Matthew 15:14).
#PrimeTimePlus #ScriptureUnion_USA*

PRAYER:

Close with prayer, asking God to help us be wise about who we choose to follow. Ask Him to help us choose those who lead the way to life and not to harm.

As the young people leave for the afternoon, remind them that God loves them! Invite them to receive His love and share it in the ways they think, speak, and act toward themselves and others this week.

Part 4: LESSON EXTENSIONS

If you have the time to complete additional activities, or would like to give the young people ideas for activities to carry home and do throughout their week, here are some possibilities:

Option 1: Scripture Study

Look up the following Bible verses. What do they mean, and how does their meaning apply to your life?

- Proverbs 2:1-5
- James 2:1-5
- 1 Samuel 16:7
- 1 John 4:1
- 1 Kings 3:9

Here is an example to show you what to do:

Verse: James 1:5 "If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault."

Meaning: If we ask for God's help to know the right thing to do, He's not going to disapprove of us; He's going to help us.

How it applies to me: When I don't know the right thing to do, I am going to ask for God's help.

Option 2: Interview Research

Interview someone about a time in their lives when they followed someone and it led them into trouble. Perhaps they did something just because the people around them were doing it, and it ended up being a poor choice. You may want to ask questions such as: *When did you make a bad choice because you followed the wrong leader? What happened? How did you feel? How did you get yourself out of the trouble? What did you learn from the experience?* Write down the person's answers so you can share what you find with the rest of the group.

• Part 2: PrimeTime

- ✓ Use the **lesson introduction** to introduce the theme.
- ✓ Read the **Bible passage** together and use the explanation in the curriculum.
- ✓ Use one of the **whole-group or small-group activities or discussion questions** to explore the passage further.
- ✓ Identify any questions that the young people have that could be explored on days 2 and 3.
- ✓ Talk about **prayer needs** and pray together – individual and family needs.

• Part 3: Wrap Up

- ✓ Introduce and teach the **key verse** for the week using instructions in the curriculum.
- ✓ Have the young people write out the **key verse** on a post it note to be placed where they will see it frequently through the week. Encourage them to read it out loud whenever possible. (You might also like to make an enlarged copy of the key verse to place on the wall or the room where you are meeting.)
- ✓ Close with **prayer**

• Part 4: Lesson Extensions

- ✓ Introduce the **activity, craft, project or game** that you have chosen **OR** present the options to the young people and let them choose what they would like to do.
- ✓ Ask the young people to create a plan and rough draft for their craft or project **OR** play the game that has been chosen.

Day 2**• Part 1: Welcome**

- ✓ Start with a **prayer** and one of the suggested **songs**.
- ✓ Use the **conversation** question that you didn't use Day 1 to open the session.

• Part 2: PrimeTime

- ✓ There may be games or activities in the **introduction** that can be used on days 2 and 3.
- ✓ Read the **Bible passage** leaving "blanks" for the young people to fill in with the correct words. Asking the young people to listen carefully, you can also deliberately use wrong words throughout the passage, and have the young people respond with the correct words.
- ✓ Use one of the **whole-group or small-group activities or discussion questions** to explore the passage further.
- ✓ Explore and discuss one of the questions identified on Day 1.
- ✓ Talk about **prayer needs** and pray together – school and community needs.

• Part 3: Wrap Up

- ✓ Review the **key verse** for the week. Explore the verse in context and discuss what it means.
- ✓ Encourage the participants to share the 'share it' comment this week via text, e-mail, regular mail, or Meme, etc., before the next session.
- ✓ Close with prayer.

• Part 4: Lesson Extensions

- ✓ Plan, commence, or continue work on an **activity, craft, or project OR** play a **game**.

Day 3**• Part 1: Welcome**

- ✓ Start with a **prayer** and one of the suggested **songs**.
- ✓ **Conversation:** create your own lesson-specific question **OR** ask children to share something they have learned about Jesus or God during the sessions this week.

- Part 2: PrimeTime

- ✓ There may be games or activities in the **introduction** that can be used on days 2 and 3.
- ✓ Re-read the **Bible passage** together in several different translations.
- ✓ Use one of the **whole-group or small-group activities or discussion questions** to explore the passage further.
- ✓ Explore and discuss one of the questions identified on Day 1.
- ✓ Talk about **prayer needs** and pray together – world needs.

- Part 3: Wrap Up

- ✓ Review the **key verse** and give young people the opportunity to say it from memory. (An alternative is to have the words written on individual pieces of paper and ask them to put them in order.)
- ✓ Review verses from previous weeks if time allows.
- ✓ Close with **prayer**.

- Under Part 4: Lesson Extensions

- ✓ Finish the week's **craft or project OR** choose another **game or activity**, if time allows.

Suggestions for extending the program over 5 days a week

Day 1

- Part 1: Welcome

- ✓ Start with a **prayer** and one of the suggested **songs**.
- ✓ Use a **conversation** question to open the session.
- ✓ Review last week's **key verse** (from week 2 onwards).

- Part 2: PrimeTime

- ✓ Use the **lesson introduction** to introduce the theme.
- ✓ Read the **Bible passage** together.
- ✓ Use one of the **whole-group or small-group activities or discussion questions** to explore the passage further.
- ✓ Identify any questions that the young people have that could be explored on days 2-5.
- ✓ Talk about **prayer needs** and pray together - individual needs.

- Part 3: Wrap Up

- ✓ Introduce and teach the **key verse** for the week using instructions in the curriculum.
- ✓ Have the young people write out the **key verse** on a post it note to be placed where they will see it frequently through the week. Encourage them to read it out loud whenever possible. (You might also like to make an enlarged copy of the key verse to place on the wall or the room where you are meeting.)
- ✓ Close with **prayer**.

- Part 4: Lesson Extensions

- ✓ Introduce the **activity, craft, project or game** that you have chosen and that is appropriate for your group OR present the options to the young people and let them choose what they would like to do this week.
- ✓ Give the young people time to create a plan and rough draft for the craft or project **OR** play the game that has been chosen.

Day 2

- Part 1: Welcome

- ✓ Start with a **prayer** and one of the suggested **songs**.
- ✓ Use the other **conversation** question to open the session.

1. **Jesus' teaching makes us look closely at what is important in the life of a Christian, a follower of Jesus. How would you describe what is more important to God than just "following the rules"?** [God doesn't want us to follow rules for "show," just to make ourselves look good. Instead, He wants us to follow His rules because we know He loves us and has a perfect plan for us. He wants us to obey Him because we trust Him. Our inward heart is more important to Him than our outward actions, but when our inward heart is tuned to Him, our outward actions will reflect that with obedience.]

2. **In light of what we've talked about, why is "pretenders" an accurate name for the Pharisees?** [They are *pretending* to honor and follow God, but they are really just following their own rules to look important and "good" to others.]

3. **In verse 12, Jesus' followers, called *disciples*, seem concerned that Jesus is making the Pharisees angry with his words. How does Jesus respond to their worry? Look at verses 13 and 14 to answer.** [He tells them not to worry about the Pharisees, that they are "plants that my Father in Heaven has not planted" and "blind guides." He tells them that if they follow the Pharisees, they will just be led into a pit.]

4. **What does this teaching mean for us? What does it mean for us that "if one blind person leads another blind person, both of them will fall into a pit"?** [If we act like the Pharisees and only care about what others see in us and what they think about us, then we are likely to be led down a destructive path. But if we can see the truth of what Jesus teaches and focus on what God wants instead of what other people think of us, then Jesus will take us down the path that leads us to life.]

5. **If you had to summarize the lesson from this Scripture passage in one sentence, how would you express it?** [Give the young people time to look over the Bible verses and discuss them with a partner. Then they may be able to share their summary sentence with the rest of the small group. Some example summaries include: *Put your trust in God, not in man. Don't follow others blindly. Pick your leaders carefully.*]

SMALL GROUP PRAYER TIME:

Say: **Let's take a moment to share prayer requests with one another. Remember from last week that we have promised to keep all prayer requests *confidential*, or private. What we say in our small group stays in our small group. How can we be praying for you this week?** [Give the young people an opportunity to share praises or prayer requests at this time. If you have a Prayer Box for prayer requests, include those petitions, as well. Keep an ongoing list of prayer requests and invite the young people to keep the group posted on how God is working in the situation they have described. Pray as a small group.]

3. **When you follow a bad leader in real life, what are some of the consequences you should be concerned about?** [You may need to follow up with some more concrete examples of a what a bad leader in real life might look like: someone who wants you to follow their lead and steal something from a store, or tease or play a trick on a kid at school, or break a rule your parents have set. What would be the real-life consequences of following a real-life bad leader like that? With some concrete examples, the young people should be able to respond.]

4. **When you follow a good leader in real life, what are some of the good results you can look forward to?** [Again, you may need to follow up with some concrete examples of what a good leader in real life might look like: an instructor who teaches them a new skill, or a neighbor who shows them how to find their way when they are lost, or a parent who takes them to PrimeTime®Plus after school. What would be the positive real-life results of following a real-life good leader like that? With some concrete examples, the young people should be able to respond.]

Say: **In the Bible, Jesus teaches about the danger of following the wrong leaders. Let's read what he has to say.**

SCRIPTURE READING:

Be sure that each person has a Bible.

Open with prayer: **Dear God, thank You for Your Word. Teach us the importance of finding the right leaders to follow.**

Help the young people find Matthew 15:7-20 in their Bibles.

Idea:

Explain to the young people that the first four books of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—are called the Gospels. Gospel means “good news,” and these four books of the Bible tell the story of Jesus’ life and ministry on Earth, which is good news for all who believe in him!



Say: **In this Bible passage, the religious leaders of the day come to ask Jesus why he and his followers don't follow the same religious rules that everybody else does. These leaders, called Pharisees, follow strict rules about what foods they can and cannot eat, when they are allowed to eat and when they are not allowed to eat, how they have to wash and prepare themselves before eating, who they can eat with... rules, rules, and more rules.**

Say: **Last week we heard John the Baptist call the Pharisees “a nest of poisonous snakes” (Matthew 3:7); this week Jesus calls them “pretenders”! John and Jesus are very bold to point out the shortcomings of the religious leaders of their day. Here's what Jesus says to them:**

Read aloud Matthew 15:7-14.

Say: **Let's talk more about this Scripture in small groups.**

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

Use the following questions to continue your discussion. Be sure the young people have Bibles with them to help them with their answers.

• Part 2: PrimeTime

- ✓ There may be games or activities in the introduction that can be used on various days.
- ✓ Retell the **Bible passage** leaving “blanks” for the young people to fill in with the correct words. Asking the young people to listen carefully, you can also deliberately use wrong words throughout the passage, and have the young people respond with the correct word.
- ✓ Use one of the **whole-group or small-group activities or discussion questions** to explore the passage further.
- ✓ Explore and discuss one of the questions identified on Day 1.
- ✓ Talk about **prayer needs** and pray together – family needs.

• Part 3: Wrap Up

- ✓ Review the **key verse** for the week. Explore the verse in context and discuss what it means.
- ✓ Encourage the participants to share the **'share it'** comment this week via text, e-mail, regular mail, or Meme, etc., before the next session.
- ✓ Close with **prayer**.

• Part 4: Lesson Extensions

- ✓ Plan, commence, or continue work on an **activity, craft, or project OR** play a game. (Game suggestions can be found in *Kid's Play!*, available from Scripture Union.)

Day 3

• Part 1: Welcome

- ✓ Start with a **prayer** and one of the suggested **songs**.
- ✓ **Conversation:** Ask the young people, what is something new they have learned about God or Jesus from this week's Bible passage?

• Part 2: PrimeTime

- ✓ There may be games, activities and questions in the **introduction** that can be used on various days.
- ✓ Read the **Bible passage** in three different translations and share insights these bring to the story.
- ✓ Use one of the **whole-group or small-group activities or discussion questions** to explore the passage further.
- ✓ Explore and discuss one of the questions identified on Day 1.
- ✓ Talk about **prayer** needs and pray together – school needs.

• Part 3: Wrap Up

- ✓ Review the **key verse** and give young people the opportunity to say it from memory. (An alternative is to have the words written on individual pieces of paper and ask them to put them in order.)
- ✓ Review verses from previous weeks if time allows.
- ✓ Close with **prayer**.

• Part 4: Lesson Extensions

- ✓ Plan, commence, or continue work on an **activity, craft, or project OR** play a **game** (Game suggestions can be found in *Kid's Play!*, available from Scripture Union)

Day 4

• Part 1: Welcome

- ✓ Start with a **prayer** and one of the suggested **songs**.
- ✓ **Conversation:** Ask the young people, what was their favorite part of the Bible story from this week?

- **Part 2: PrimeTime**

- ✓ Work on a presentation of the **Bible story** as a monologue, dialogue, skit, news report (written or audio/visual recording to be performed on the next day).
- ✓ Use one of the **whole-group or small-group activities or discussion questions** to explore the passage further.
- ✓ Talk about **prayer needs** and pray together – community needs.

- **Part 3: Wrap Up**

- ✓ Review the **key verse** and ask the young people to explain what it means.
- ✓ Review verses from previous weeks if time allows.
- ✓ Close with **prayer**.

- **Part 4: Lesson Extensions**

- ✓ Continue work on an activity, **craft, or project OR** play a **game** (Game suggestions can be found in Kid's Play!, available from Scripture Union)

Day 5

- **Part 1: Welcome**

- ✓ Start with a **prayer** and one of the suggested **songs**.
- ✓ **Conversation:** Ask the young people, what have they learned about God, Jesus, the world or themselves from the Bible story this week?

- **Part 2: PrimeTime**

- ✓ Present the **Bible story** as a monologue, dialogue, skit, news report written or audio/visual recording.
- ✓ Talk about **prayer needs** and pray together – world needs.

- **Part 3: Wrap Up**

- ✓ Read the **key verse** from three different translations and identify any new insights into the meaning of the verse.
- ✓ Review key verses from earlier weeks.
- ✓ Close with **prayer**.

- **Part 4: Lesson Extensions**

- ✓ Finish all **crafts or projects**. Give the young people the opportunity to share their creations with each other and encourage them to share them with family, a neighbor, church member, or friend.

At the end of each four weeks, distribute the take home pages to help young people further explore the Bible and remember the key verses.



Idea:

If you have a story about getting lost, be sure to share it!

Say: **We usually get lost because we are unfamiliar with where we are, we aren't paying attention, we aren't prepared (such as looking at a map ahead of time), or we are following someone who doesn't know where they are going!**

Say: **Today we are going to be talking about how important it is to follow the right leader. Following the wrong leader can lead us into trouble, such as getting lost, or worse. Before we get too serious about it, though, let's play some games where following the leader, whether good or bad, is part of the fun!**

Choose one or more of the following games to play with the young people.

Follow the Leader: Choose one person to be the Leader. The Leader moves around the space in a way that the other players must mimic. If the Leader hops on one foot, everyone must hop on one foot. If the Leader skips, everyone must skip. Whoever doesn't follow correctly is out of the game! For even more fun, put on some music and ask the Leader to include some dance moves.

Drawing Challenge: Give each person a partner. One partner is the Presenter, while the other partner is the Artist. Give each Artist a piece of paper and a pencil or marker, and ask them to turn around and face the back of the room. Show the Presenters an everyday object (such as an apple or a hairbrush). Each

Presenter then must describe the object to their Artist partner in such detail that the Artist is able to make an accurate drawing of the object on paper. The Presenter may not name the object at any time... descriptions only! When finished, invite the Artists to share their drawings to see how closely they match the object being described. If there's time, invite the partners to switch roles and do the activity again with a new object.

Trust Walk: Give each person a partner. One person is the Leader, while the other person is blindfolded. The Leader must take the other person through an obstacle course (some desks and chairs placed along the path may be sufficient using only words; the partners may not take their arm or physically direct them in any way. Invite the partners to switch roles and do the activity again with a few rearranged obstacles.

Follow up with these questions:

1. **Was it easy or difficult to follow the leader in these games? Why do you say that?** [Give the young people an opportunity to respond.]
2. **What happened to you when you weren't able to follow the leader, or if the leader didn't do such a great job leading you?** [Answers might include: I got kicked out of the game, my drawing didn't look anything like the object, or I ran into a desk.]

Share It:

People tend to focus on outside appearances, but God looks at the condition of our hearts.
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Current songs by popular Christian artists that might be relevant include:

- + Hillsong United, "Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)"
- + Chris Tomlin, "I Will Follow"
- + John Waller, "While I'm Waiting"
- + Rend Collective, "My Lighthouse"

CONVERSATION: Distribute name tags to the young people if you or they are still learning each other's names. Check in with the young people to see how they are doing and what is on their minds. You may wish to use one of these conversation starters to get your group talking:

- a. **What do you *always* take with you whenever you leave the house?**
- b. **What is the most important thing you have learned from your family?**

LAST WEEK'S KEY VERSE: Say: **Who can recite last week's Key Verse?** ["Dear children, don't let anyone lead you down the wrong path" (1 John 3:7).]

Part 2: PRIME TIME

LESSON INTRODUCTION:

Say: **Have you ever gotten lost? Maybe you were a young child, and you got lost at the mall or in the grocery store. Or you got lost walking to your friend's house or trying to find your way around a new school. Or maybe you got lost in the woods on a hike. Who can tell us the story of a time when you got lost?** [Give the young people time to share their stories.]

As You Prepare:

1. Pray for the upcoming session and for the young people in your program. Pray that they will begin to consider the importance of choosing who they will follow and ask God to open their hearts to following Jesus.
2. Reflect on the people you have followed and emulated over the course of your life, both the positive and the negative role models. What was the experience like in both cases? How did following these people impact your life?
3. Read Matthew 15:1-20. Meditate on verse 14 in the context of the rest of the passage. In what areas does our culture tend to focus on people's external qualities? Pray for God's help in relating the Key Verse to the young people's everyday experience.
4. Choose music for the session.
5. Prepare displays of the Key Verse either on posterboard or computer slide.

Part 1: WELCOME

Here are some ideas for welcoming the young people and getting them settled into today's session.

MUSIC: As they arrive, play songs related to the theme of going the right way. Encourage the young people to sing along once they are familiar with the chorus or some of the verses. Including music in our worship helps us to incline our hearts to God, unite our voices with others in praise of God, and express our love for Him with our whole being.



ONE DAY A WEEK

PROGRAM PREPARATION	
Goal	
Key verse	
Bible passage	
Materials	

PROGRAM ELEMENT	
Welcome	
Music	
Conversation	
Previous week's key verse review	
Prime Time	
Lesson introduction	
Scripture reading	
Whole/Small Group exploration	
Group prayer	
Wrap Up	
Key verse	
Closing prayer	
Lesson Extensions	
Activity, Craft, Project, or Game	

THREE DAYS A WEEK

PROGRAM PREPARATION			
Goal			
Key verse			
Bible passage			
Materials			
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
PROGRAM ELEMENT			
Welcome			
Music			
Conversation			
Previous week's key verse review Day 1 only			
Prime Time			
Lesson introduction			
Scripture reading			
Whole/Small Group exploration			
Group prayer			
Wrap Up			
Key verse			
Closing prayer			
Lesson Extensions			
Activity, Craft, Project, or Game			



THEME: *WHO SHOULD YOU FOLLOW?*

Follow the Right Leader

Week
4

Materials:

- Display of Key Verse (either on posterboard or computer slide)
- Optional: Name tags
- Paper
- Pens and pencils
- Everyday objects to draw (such as an apple and a hairbrush)
- Several blindfolds (or scarves)
- Bibles
- CD or online source of songs related to the theme of going the right way

Thought:

God calls us to follow a different system of values.

Session Goal:

The young people will understand that there are risks and benefits involved in following a leader.

Key Verse:

"If a blind person leads another who is blind, both of them will fall into a pit" (Matthew 15:14).

Session Description:

The young people will play games that depend on following a leader in order to understand the potential positive and negative results of following a leader.

Bible Background:

In Matthew 15:1-20, Jesus challenges the Pharisees to understand that they have been focusing on the wrong things. For the Pharisees, outside appearances have mattered most: looking good, following the rules, *seeming* holy. Yet, in reality, it is what's on the inside that matters most. God is concerned with the condition of our hearts. Because the Pharisees refuse to see things that way, Jesus calls them "blind guides."

The Pharisees were leaders within the religious establishment. But because they focused on external things, they themselves walked in darkness. Those who followed them couldn't help but go wrong! Ultimately, both leader and follower would end up falling into a pit.

In our culture, many of us choose heroes based on external factors: appearance, wealth, talents, fame, who they know and what they have. God calls us to follow a different system of values, to look deeper, and to choose heroes and leaders based on what's inside their hearts.

FIVE DAYS A WEEK

PROGRAM PREPARATION	
Goal	The young people will understand that there are risks and benefits involved in following a leader.
Key verse	"If a blind person leads another who is blind, both of them will fall into a pit" (Matthew 15:14)
Bible passage	Matthew 15:1-20
Materials	Display of key verse, paper, pens and pencils, everyday objects to draw, several blindfolds, Bibles, CD or online source of songs

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
PROGRAM ELEMENT					
Welcome					
Music	"I Will Follow" Chris Tomlin	"While I'm Waiting" John Waller	"My Lighthouse" Rend Collective	"Oceans (Where feet may fall)" Hillsong United	"I Will Follow" Chris Tomlin
Conversation	What do you always take with you whenever you leave the house?	What is the most important thing you have learned from your family?	What have you learned about Jesus or God during PrimeTime® this week?	What was your favorite part of the Bible story this week? Why?	What have you learned about God, Jesus, the world or yourself from the Bible story this week?
Previous week's key verse review	Day 1 only Review - "Dear children, don't let anyone lead you down the wrong path"(1 John 3:7).				
Prime Time					
Lesson introduction	Getting lost and following the right leader	Game: Drawing Challenge – follow up question 1	Game: Follow the Leader – follow up question 2	Game: Trust Walk – follow up question 3	Game follow up question 4
Scripture reading	Read Matthew 15:1-20	Read the Bible passage with fill in the 'blanks'	Read the Bible passage in the NIV, CEV, & Message	Work on a presentation of the Bible story as a skit	Present the Bible story skit
Whole/Small Group exploration	Discussion question 1	Discussion question 2	Discussion question 3	Discussion question 4	Discussion question 5
Group prayer	Sharing & prayer – individuals	Sharing & prayer – family	Sharing & prayer – school	Sharing & prayer – community	Sharing & prayer – the world
Wrap Up					
Key verse	Key verse activity – repetition link up	Explore the key verse in context. Share it	Say (or arrange) it from memory.	Review and ask yp to explain it	Read the verse in 3 translations & share insights
Closing prayer	Ask God to help us be wise about whom we choose to follow.	Ask God to help us choose those who lead the way to life and not to harm.	Pray that local leaders will know God through Jesus & be led by him.	Pray that world leaders will know God through Jesus & be led by him	Pray for the young people in their leadership roles.
Lesson Extensions					
Activity, Craft, Project,	Prepare YP for Interview Research	Scripture Study	Don't Follow that Leader!	Persuade Your Peers	Share Interview Research

Distribute the take home page for Weeks 1-4 to help young people further explore the Bible and remember the key verses.

FIVE DAYS A WEEK

PROGRAM PREPARATION	
Goal	
Key verse	
Bible passage	
Materials	

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
PROGRAM ELEMENT					
Welcome					
Music					
Conversation					
Previous week's key verse review Day 1 only					
Prime Time					
Lesson introduction					
Scripture reading					
Whole/Small Group exploration					
Group prayer					
Wrap Up					
Key verse					
Closing prayer					
Lesson Extensions					
Activity, Craft, Project, or Game					



For use in Homeschool or After School Care Setting

Weekly Planner Samples from the
'Following Jesus' Curriculum – Week 4

ONE DAY A WEEK

PROGRAM PREPARATION	
Goal	The young people will understand that there are risks and benefits involved in following a leader.
Key verse	"If a blind person leads another who is blind, both of them will fall into a pit" (Matthew 15:14)
Bible passage	Matthew 15:1-20
Materials	Display of key verse, paper, pens and pencils, everyday objects to draw, several blindfolds, Bibles, CD or online source of songs

PROGRAM ELEMENT	
Welcome	
Music	"I Will Follow" - Chris Tomlin, "My Lighthouse" – Rend Collective
Conversation	a. What do you always take with you whenever you leave the house? b. What is the most important thing you have learned from your family?
Previous week's key verse review	"Dear children, don't let anyone lead you down the wrong path" (1 John 3:7).
Prime Time	
Lesson introduction	Getting lost and following the right leader Game: Follow the leader – follow up questions
Scripture reading	Prayer / Introductory comments / Read Matthew 15:7-14
Whole/Small Group exploration	Small group questions 1 - 5
Group prayer	Sharing and prayer
Wrap Up	
Key verse	Key verse activity – repetition link up Encourage them to share it with friends and others
Closing prayer	Close with prayer, asking God to help us be wise about whom we choose to follow. Ask Him to help us choose those who lead the way to life and not to harm.
Lesson Extensions	
Activity, Craft, Project, or Game	Interview Research: Prepare the young people and encourage them to carry out interviews. Include feedback in next week's program Time permitting: Don't Follow that Leader activity
Game	

Distribute the take home page for Weeks 1-4 to help young people further explore the Bible and remember the key verses.

THREE DAYS A WEEK

PROGRAM PREPARATION	
Goal	The young people will understand that there are risks and benefits involved in following a leader.
Key verse	"If a blind person leads another who is blind, both of them will fall into a pit" (Matthew 15:14)
Bible passage	Matthew 15:1-20
Materials	Display of key verse, paper, pens and pencils, everyday objects to draw, several blindfolds, Bibles, CD or online source of songs

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
PROGRAM ELEMENT			
Welcome			
Music	"I Will Follow" Chris Tomlin	"While I'm Waiting" John Waller	"My Lighthouse" Rend Collective
Conversation	What do you always take with you whenever you leave the house?	What is the most important thing you have learned from your family?	What have you learned about Jesus or God during PrimeTime® this week?
Previous week's key verse review	Review - "Dear children, don't let anyone lead you down the wrong path"(1 John 3:7).		
Prime Time			
Lesson introduction	Getting lost and following the right leader	Game: Drawing Challenge – follow up questions 1&2	Game: Follow the Leader – follow up questions 3&4
Scripture reading	Read Matthew 15:1-20	Read the Bible passage with fill in the 'blanks'	Read the Bible passage in the NIV, CEV, & Message
Whole/Small Group exploration	Small group questions 1 &2	Small group questions 3&4	Small group question 5
Group prayer	Sharing and prayer – individuals and family	Sharing and prayer – school and community	Sharing and prayer – the world
Wrap Up			
Key verse	Key verse activity – repetition link up	Explore the key verse in context. Encourage them to share it.	Give young people the opportunity to say (or arrange) it from memory.
Closing prayer	Close with prayer, asking God to help us be wise about whom we choose to follow.	Close with prayer asking him to help us choose those who lead the way to life and not to harm.	Close by praying for the young people in their leadership roles.
Lesson Extensions			
Activity, Craft, Project, or Game	Scripture Study	Don't Follow that Leader!	Persuade Your Peers
Game			

Distribute the take home page for Weeks 1-4 to help young people further explore the Bible and remember the key verses.