



WEEK ONE—WHO'S DRIVING YOUR TRAIN?

Graffiti 2 Community Ministries' focus is to make God known in tangible, relevant, and reachable ways for the children, teens and families we serve. To assist mission teams in preparing for summer devotions and Bible studies, Graffiti 2 is providing devotion topics and ideas for teaching each topic.

The theme for the summer is *Takin' the 252: The Train You're On Determines Where You Go*. Students will be encouraged to consider the following four questions: 1) Who's driving your train? 2) Where is your train heading? 3) How do I transfer? 4) What is the fare?

Through studying the story of Jesus' life as portrayed in *The Action Bible*, students will see that 1) Jesus is our perfect example of how to ride the 252 Train. Luke 2:52 says, "Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people." 2) Jesus is the way to ride the 252 Train.

Topic Assignments

Week One—Football/Cheerleading Camp

Question: Who's driving your train?

The Action Bible: Jesus pleased God.

Memory Verse: ***Blessed is the one who obeys the law of the LORD. He doesn't follow the advice of evil people. He doesn't make a habit of doing what sinners do. Psalm 1:1 NIRV***

Week Two—Baseball Camp

Question: Where is your train heading?

The Action Bible: Jesus helped others.

Memory Verse: ***There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. Proverbs 14:12 NLT.***

Week Three—Tennis Camp

Question: Where is your train heading?

The Action Bible: Jesus was wise.

Memory Verse: ***Christ died for everyone. He died so that those who live should not live for themselves anymore. They should live for Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:15 NIRV***

Week Four—Basketball/Cheerleading Camp

Question: What is the fare?

The Action Bible: Jesus was strong.

Memory Verse: ***Say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord." Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved. Romans 10:9***

Each day, there will be a large group and small group Bible study. Bible study leaders are responsible to prepare the materials in this packet for small group Bible study.

Small group Bible study includes:

Day 1: Theme (Discussing the question posed for the week)

Day 2: Memory Verse Emphasis (Graffiti 2 will provide a scripture memory card at the beginning of the week)

Day 3: Bible Reading—Group reading out of *The Action Bible* (Graffiti 2 will provide)

Day 4: Follow-up to Gospel presentation—this will utilize a Gospel tool that will be distributed to the student

Bible studies are written for a middle age level of students. Bible study leaders are encouraged to adapt Bible studies for older youth and younger students (as necessary). Feel free to add in crafts and other games.

Bible Study Leaders will need to provide a small prize to every student that memorized the memory verse for the week. Graffiti 2 will provide the other materials listed in the Bible study.

Some Things to Remember

*Graffiti 2 encourages every Bible study to end with prayer requests and prayer time

*Be careful of church jargon—most of the children are un-churched

*Prepare, prepare, prepare—Games and discussion times often fail because the leader did not properly prepare

*Pray, pray, pray—often you must overcome hostility, suspicion, and mistrust; pray for God to break down these barriers quickly



WEEK ONE—WHO'S DRIVING YOUR TRAIN?

Day One

Memory Verse: *Blessed is the one who obeys the law of the LORD. He doesn't follow the advice of evil people. He doesn't make a habit of doing what sinners do. Psalm 1:1 NIRV*

Materials (G2 Provides): Memory verse card; Train Poster; Velcro attachments with words “friends,” “family,” “neighbors,” “celebrities,” “me”; boundary markers

Activity: Train Tag

Designate an area for the game with boundaries. A person is designated as “it.” When he or she tags another person they must link hands. Each successive person that is tagged links hands with the ever-growing train. Play until every person has joined the “train.” The train may only go the direction of their leader.

Lesson:

In this game, the growing team acted a little like a subway train. There was a leader to whom everyone else. Where he or she went, the whole group went.

A subway train is made up of many cars. Each car doesn't move by its self. The train's direction is determined by the lead car—the car with the driver. If the car with the driver goes right, the other cars go right. If the car with the driver goes left, the cars go left.

Some of us like to think that we are in the driver's car making the decisions in our life. The Bible only gives two options. It says either sin is driving the train, or God is driving the train.

Sin is obeying anything beside God. It's connecting your train to anything else besides God. We might choose to follow friends, family, neighbors, or celebrities. We might think, I am my own person I follow no one. That's just as sinful, because you put yourself in the place of God and you still haven't connected your train to Him.

[As the previous paragraph is discussed, display the train poster. Using the Velcro attachments, insert them in the place of the conductor]

Our memory verse this week encourages us to connect our car to God and warns us against connecting to anyone else: *Blessed is the one who obeys the law of the LORD. He doesn't follow the advice of evil people. He doesn't make a habit of doing what sinners do. Psalm 1:1 NIRV*

Discussion:

What are some things that sinners do? [Emphasize the things that sinners do either hurt themselves or others. It always hurts their relationship with God.]

Who are the evil people that this verse talks about? [Emphasize that we are all evil. It's not just the people that we see doing bad. We all have the problem of sin.]

What is the “law of the Lord?” [Emphasize that God's law are his commands that we read in His word.]

Why is a person blessed who obeys the law of the Lord? [Emphasize that the command isn't just to know the law, we must also obey it.]

What does it mean to be blessed? [Emphasize that being blessed is learning and experiencing God's good in our life as we listen to and obey His word.]



WEEK ONE—WHO'S DRIVING YOUR TRAIN?

Day Two

Memory Verse: *Blessed is the one who obeys the law of the LORD. He doesn't follow the advice of evil people. He doesn't make a habit of doing what sinners do. Psalm 1:1 NIRV*

Materials (G2 Provides): Pink, green, and blue sponges prepared with memory verse words and "X's"; plastic tub of water; large empty cup

Review:
The theme this summer is *Takin' the 252: The train you're on determines where you go*. Yesterday we asked, "Who drives your train?" Some of us like to think that we are in the driver's car making the decisions in our life. The Bible only gives two options. It says either sin is driving the train, or God is driving the train.

Do you remember what sin is?

Sin is obeying anything beside God. It's connecting your train to anything else besides God. We might choose to follow friends, family, neighbors, or celebrities. We might think, I am my own person I follow no one. That's just as sinful, because you put yourself in the place of God and you still haven't connected your train to Him.

Jesus lived his whole life without sinning. He was on the *252 Train* already at your age. He connected himself to his Father in heaven. We see the results of this in Luke 2:52 which says, "Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people."

Yesterday in your Bible reading, we saw that God was pleased with Jesus.

Memory Verse:
Our memory verse encourages us to be like Jesus and connect ourselves to God instead of others. It says: *Blessed is the one who obeys the law of the LORD. He doesn't follow the advice of evil people. He doesn't make a habit of doing what sinners do. Psalm 1:1 NIRV*

Let's practice reciting this verse several times. We are trying to memorize it. If you memorize it this week, you will receive a small prize at the end of the week. Also, it will help with the game we are going to play in a few minutes.

[Recite verse several times]

Is there a time that you felt really blessed because you did the right thing?

Is there a time that you followed bad advice?

How do we make a habit?

To help us memorize this verse we are going to have a sponge race.

Game: Sponge Race
Prepare sponges with each word of the verse (or phrases for younger children) written with permanent marker. In addition to the words, have 10 sponges marked with "X's." Prepare and color code one set of sponges for each team (i.e. pink, green, blue). Place all sponges face down in a large plastic tub, filled with water. Have an empty cup sitting next to the tub. Divide students into teams and designate each team a color. Students form a line 15 feet from the tub. On your command, they race one by one to the tub and grab a sponge that matches their team's color. If it is a word or phrase, they take it back to their team. If it is an X, they must grab the empty cup, fill it with water from the tub, and dump it on their head. They place the "X" back in the tub and run back to their team without a sponge. Once a team has all their sponges, they put them in order to form the memory verse.



WEEK ONE—WHO'S DRIVING YOUR TRAIN?

Day Three

Memory Verse: *Blessed is the one who obeys the law of the LORD. He doesn't follow the advice of evil people. He doesn't make a habit of doing what sinners do. Psalm 1:1 NIRV*

Materials (G2 Provides): The Action Bible

Review:

The theme this summer is *Takin' the 252: The train you're on determines where you go*. On Monday we asked, "Who drives your train?" Some of us like to think that we are in the driver's car making the decisions in our life. The Bible only gives two options. It says either sin is driving the train, or God is driving the train.

Do you remember what sin is?

Sin is obeying anything beside God. It's connecting your train to anything else besides God. We might choose to follow friends, family, neighbors, or celebrities. We might think, I am my own person I follow no one. That's just as sinful, because you put yourself in the place of God and you still haven't connected your train to Him.

Our memory verse encourages us to connect ourselves to God instead of others. It says: *Blessed is the one who obeys the law of the LORD. He doesn't follow the advice of evil people. He doesn't make a habit of doing what sinners do. Psalm 1:1 NIRV*

Bible Story:

Jesus lived his whole life without sinning. He was on the *252 Train* already at your age. He connected himself to his Father in heaven. We see the results of this in Luke 2:52 which says, "Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people."

Yesterday in your Bible reading, we saw that God was pleased with Jesus.

Today, we are going to continue to read about how Jesus pleased his Father, even when he was tempted to do otherwise.

Read "Tempted in the Desert" (begin on page 37 at the bottom) out of The Action Bible

Discussion:

Why was Jesus hungry? [Jesus was fasting. Fasting means going without eating and instead praying]

How did Satan tempt Jesus? [He first tempted Jesus to use his power to provide food for himself. He then tempted Jesus to seek after power and fame. He tempted Jesus to doubt himself.]

How does Satan do the same to us? [We are tempted to not trust God to provide for our needs. We are also tempted to seek after money, power, and fame. Satan often uses the weapon of self-doubt against us.]

How did Jesus respond to Satan's temptations? [He responded with the word of God.]

How does this connect to our 252 theme? [Satan wants us to connect ourselves to anything but God. He doesn't care what it is. It could be money, power, fame, self-doubt, or self-reliance.]

How did Jesus please God? [He stayed connected to his Father despite temptation and struggle.]



WEEK ONE—WHO'S DRIVING YOUR TRAIN?

Day Four

Memory Verse: *Blessed is the one who obeys the law of the LORD. He doesn't follow the advice of evil people. He doesn't make a habit of doing what sinners do. Psalm 1:1 NIRV*

Materials (G2 Provides): Gospel Tool

Materials (PROVIDED BY MISSION TEAM): Scripture Memory Prize

Salvation Illustration Follow-Up:

After Salvation Illustration present the gospel using the resource provided by Graffiti 2. Give children an opportunity to ask questions and the opportunity to pray.

Ask students questions about the story and give prizes for correct answer.

Memory Verse Recitation:

Check to see if students have memorized the verse. Give a prize to students who recite it from memory.

Prayer:

Say: We are going to close our Bible studies for this week with prayer. Does anybody have a reason to say thank-you to God or a reason to ask for His help?

Pray



WEEK TWO—WHERE IS YOUR TRAIN HEADING?

Day One

Memory Verse: *There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. Proverbs 14:12 NLT*

Materials (G2 Provides): Memory verse cards; Subway map poster; dice; game pieces; station cards

Activity: Subway Races

Divide group into 4 teams. Each team picks a subway line (color) to begin on. They must begin at the end of the track. The leader picks a card that designates to which station they must travel. Teams take turns rolling the dice and moving their piece station by station to the chosen station. They may only transfer at legitimate transfer locations. If local, they must stay local until they transfer at the appropriate station.

Lesson:

The theme this summer is *Takin' the 252: The train you're on determines where you go.*

In the game you played, it was more complicated if you were trying to get to a station that wasn't on your subway line. In fact, if you only stayed on one subway line, there were places you could never go. A subway train is limited where it can go by the track that it is on. As a rider of a subway, if you stay on only one subway line then there will be places you can never go.

Sometimes in life, we feel like we are on the right track. Perhaps it is a track that many others take.

Last week, we talked about how we sometimes attach ourselves to sin. Sin is obeying anything beside God. It's connecting your train to anything else besides God. Often when we do that it feels good. It feels right.

Our memory verse warns about this: *There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. Proverbs 14:12 NLT*

Discussion:

What do you think it means by death? [Emphasize that when the Bible talks about death it means two things. 1) Sin leads to consequences that harm our life on earth. 2) At the end of our life death means that we won't experience the life God has for us in heaven.]

Why do deadly paths seem right? [Emphasize that we often can't see far enough down the road to know the consequences that can come from our choices.]

What is the opposite of death? [Emphasize the opposite of death is life. In John 10:10, Jesus reminds us that there are things that rob us of life, but he wants to give us life.]

What does it mean when the Bible tells us that God offers us life? [Emphasize that when the Bible talks about life it is talking about two things: 1) The fullest life possible on earth. 2) Life forever with God in heaven when we die.]

It's important for us to think about where our train is heading. Any track we are on besides God's track ends in death. Switching tracks and following God brings us life to the fullest.



WEEK TWO—WHERE IS YOUR TRAIN HEADING?

Day Two

Memory Verse: *There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. Proverbs 14:12 NLT*

Materials (G2 Provides): Cups with memory verse words written on bottom plus a few extra (a different color for each team); water

Review:
The theme this summer is *Takin' the 252: The train you're on determines where you go*. Yesterday we asked, "Where is your train heading?" It's important for us to think about where our train is heading. A subway train is limited where it can go by the track that it is on. Sometimes in life, we feel like we are on the right track. Perhaps it is a track that many others take. Any track we are on besides God's track ends in death. Switching tracks and following God brings us life to the fullest.

Jesus was on the right track when he was your age. It says in Luke 2:52: "Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people."

Memory Verse:
Our memory verse warns us about taking the wrong track: *There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. Proverbs 14:12 NLT.*

Let's practice reciting this verse several times. We are trying to memorize it. If you memorize it this week, you will receive a small prize at the end of the week. Also, it will help with the game we are going to play in a few minutes.

[Recite verse several times]

Has there ever been a time in your life where you made the wrong choice and suffered consequences? [Use this opportunity to share some of your own testimony]

How come it's sometimes hard to tell if you're on the right path? [Emphasize that often the easiest things to do in life are normally the wrong thing. The hardest things to do are normally the right things.]

How can you tell the difference between the path that leads to life and the path that leads to death? [Emphasize that God's word shows us the path to life]

To help us memorize this verse we are going to have a water race.

Game: Cup Water Race

Prepare a colored cup with each word of the verse written on the bottom. Prepare a different color for each team. In addition to the words have some cups that have been left blank. Fill the cups with water and place them a distance of 15 feet from the teams. Divide the students into teams and assign each team a color. On your command, the students race to the cups. Pick up a cup and pour the water on their heads. If the cup has a word they bring the cup back to their team. If it does not have a word, they go back empty-handed. Once they have found all the words, they put the words in order to form the verse.



WEEK TWO—WHERE IS YOUR TRAIN HEADING?

Day Three

Memory Verse: *There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. Proverbs 14:12 NLT*

Materials (G2 Provides): The Action Bible

Review:
The theme this summer is *Takin' the 252: The train you're on determines where you go*. On Monday we asked, "Where is your train heading?" It's important for us to think about where our train is heading. A subway train is limited where it can go by the track that it is on. Sometimes in life, we feel like we are on the right track. Perhaps it is a track that many others take.

Our memory verse warns us about this: *There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. Proverbs 14:12 NLT.*

Any track we are on besides God's track ends in death. Switching tracks and following God brings us life to the fullest. Jesus was on the right track when he was your age.

Bible Story:
Jesus was on the right track when he was your age. It says in Luke 2:52: "Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people."

This week in large group Bible study you have been reading about how Jesus pleased others by helping them. Sometimes though the things he did caused others to despise him. Today we are going to see that Jesus didn't really care what people thought, he cared about pleasing his Father in heaven.

Read "Dinner with Sinners" (page 53 of The Action Bible).

Discussion:
What are two ways that Jesus helped people in this passage? [1) Jesus was accepting of a person that other people hated. 2) He healed a man even though he knew it would cause others to judge him]

What do these two instances show about who Jesus was trying to please? [They show that Jesus was focused on pleasing his Father, not on pleasing others.]

What are some examples of people in your life that aren't accepted by others? [Various answers]

What can you do to be like Jesus to them? [Honor God by being their friend and caring about their problems. Then, do something to help with their problem.]



WEEK TWO—WHERE IS YOUR TRAIN HEADING?

Day Four

Memory Verse: *There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death. Proverbs 14:12 NLT*

Materials (G2 Provides): Gospel Tool

Materials (PROVIDED BY MISSION TEAM): Scripture Memory Prize

Salvation Illustration Follow-Up:

After Salvation Illustration present the gospel using the resource provided by Graffiti 2. Give children an opportunity to ask questions and the opportunity to pray.

Ask students questions about the story and give prizes for correct answer.

Memory Verse Recitation:

Check to see if students have memorized the verse. Give a prize to students who recite it from memory.

Prayer:

Say: We are going to close our Bible studies for this week with prayer. Does anybody have a reason to say thank-you to God or a reason to ask for His help?

Pray



WEEK THREE—HOW DO I TRANSFER?

Day One

Memory Verse: *Christ died for everyone. He died so that those who live should not live for themselves anymore. They should live for Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:15 NIRV*

Materials (G2 Provides): Memory verse cards; Subway map poster; Week 1 Subway Poster; tub of candy; mini-crosses

Lesson:

The theme this summer is *Takin' the 252: The train you're on determines where you go*. Last week you talked about how it's important to think about where your train is heading. Any track we are on besides God's track ends in death. Switching tracks and following God brings us life to the fullest. So, how do we transfer?

Looking at the subway map, what do I need to do to transfer to a different train? (Give examples: What do I do to transfer from the 4 train to the N train? What do I do to transfer from the 2 train to the 3 train?) [Emphasize that to transfer we must give up the track we are on and switch to a different track]

Our memory verse talks about how we transfer and start following God. It says, "*Christ died for everyone. He died so that those who live should not live for themselves anymore. They should live for Christ*". (2 Corinthians 5:15 NIRV)

What does it say that Jesus did? [Emphasize that Jesus died for everyone.]

What do you know about Jesus' life and death? [Emphasize that Jesus was God's son, not just a teacher or prophet. He first taught us how to have a relationship with God. The leading authorities didn't understand his teaching because they refused to give up their way of thinking. They refused to transfer. So they had him killed. His death was by God's design and Jesus' willingness. Through it, Jesus not only was an example for us on how to relate to God, but became our way to relate to God.]

Why did he do it? [Emphasize that Jesus did it out of love for God and love for us. He was willing to do anything that his Father in heaven desired of him. This verse says he did it so that we would not live for ourselves anymore. Jesus knew that way of living ends in death.]

What does this teach us about transferring? [Emphasize that to transfer we must stop living for ourselves and instead live for Jesus.]

Activity:

Here's an illustration to help you understand.

[Ask for 4 volunteers. Give each person an opportunity to take from a tub of candy. Go one by one down the line. Repeating again and again until they cannot hold any more.]

This is the way most people live their life. Do you remember this illustration from week 1? [Display the poster that depicts the lead car. Velcro attachments depict who is driving the train (You, Family, Friends, God).]

When we are driving our train, our focus is filling up our cars with fortune, friends, family, and fame.

Some people do this for a little while and realize it is all pretty meaningless. They might think they can make their life better by helping others. Would any of our volunteers be willing to give away their candy to someone else? [Emphasize even if you give away everything, you are still left with nothing in your hands.]

In the end, everything that you have in your hands is pretty worthless. It will give you a short-lived thrill, but it definitely doesn't last forever.

[Continue the illustration. Tell volunteers that you have something to give them, but the only way you can give it to them is if they let go of what is in their hands. Trade their candy for a cross.]

What does the cross mean? [Emphasize that the cross is how Jesus was killed. It represents the sacrifice he made to fix our problem with God. It also represents what we must do. We must sacrifice what we want and instead live for what God wants]



WEEK THREE—HOW DO I TRANSFER?

Day Two

Memory Verse: *Christ died for everyone. He died so that those who live should not live for themselves anymore. They should live for Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:15 NIRV*

Materials (G2 Provides): Tennis balls; water balloons

Review:
The theme this summer is *Takin' the 252: The train you're on determines where you go*. Jesus was on the 252 Train already when he was your age. Luke 2:52 tells us about this when it says, "Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people."

We aren't on that train though like Jesus. At some point in our life, we have to transfer to that train. Jesus died so we could have the opportunity to get off the train that is taking us the wrong way and switch to the train that can give us life.

Memory Verse:
Our memory verse talks about this. It says, "*Christ died for everyone. He died so that those who live should not live for themselves anymore. They should live for Christ.*" (2 Corinthians 5:15 NIRV)

Let's practice reciting this verse several times. We are trying to memorize it. If you memorize it this week, you will receive a small prize at the end of the week. Also, it will help with the game we are going to play in a few minutes.

[Recite verse several times]

Who did Christ die for? [Emphasize he died for everyone because we all need to switch trains.]

What does it mean to live for yourself? [Emphasize that living for yourself is living selfishly, living to please yourself first and foremost.]

What does it mean to live for Christ? [Emphasize that living for Christ is to live to please Jesus first and foremost. We learn how to do that by having a relationship with him. We learn more about him through His word.]

To help us memorize this verse we are going to play a game.

Game: Ball/Balloon Toss

Place the students in pairs. Each pair should be given a tennis ball. Together as a group toss the balls back and forth as they say each word of the memory verse. Do it slowly and say the words all together. The leader will need to lead. Repeat exercise, but have students take a few steps away from each other prior to beginning. Repeat exercise several times, stepping farther and farther away. As a final exercise, give each pair a water balloon. Have the pairs start close together. This time, after each word is said, have the teams take a step away from each other.



WEEK THREE—HOW DO I TRANSFER?

Day Three

Memory Verse: *Christ died for everyone. He died so that those who live should not live for themselves anymore. They should live for Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:15 NIRV*

Materials (G2 Provides): The Action Bible

Review:

The theme this summer is *Takin' the 252: The train you're on determines where you go*. Just like on the subway you can switch trains, we can also change the train we're on in our life.

Our memory verse talks about this. It says, “*Christ died for everyone. He died so that those who live should not live for themselves anymore. They should live for Christ.*” (2 Corinthians 5:15 NIRV)

Jesus died so we could have the opportunity to get off the train that is taking us the wrong way and switch to the train that can give us life.

Bible Story:

Jesus was on the 252 Train already when he was your age. Luke 2:52 tells us about this when it says, “Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people.” The past two weeks you read how Jesus pleased God and pleased others. This week you have been reading about Jesus’ wisdom. Today, we are going to read some more about Jesus’ wisdom.

Read “A Good Neighbor and Praying Lessons” (Page 85-89 in The Action Bible).

Discussion:

What does the lawyer ask Jesus? [How do I get eternal life?]

How does Jesus answer him? [He asks him another question. But he tells the man he’s right when he says “Love God with everything you are and love your neighbor.”]

What question does the man then ask Jesus? [Who is my neighbor?]

What wisdom does Jesus’ story give us? [Being religious (going to church) doesn’t please God if it doesn’t lead to us helping others.]

What does the story with Mary and Martha teach us? [It warns us about doing the opposite of the Good Samaritan in the previous story. We shouldn’t be so busy doing things that we don’t seek after God.]

How does Jesus teach the disciples to pray? [He gives them an example prayer. This isn’t a prayer that we copy word for word. It is a prayer that we use to get us started. It teaches us to remember that we are God’s children and he is our Father. It tells us to focus on who he is and glorifying his name. It reminds us to not build our own kingdom but to accept and further His kingdom. It tells us to ask just what we need for today. It reminds us to seek forgiveness for the wrong we do while also being forgiving to others. It reminds us to be on guard against temptation.]



WEEK THREE—HOW DO I TRANSFER?

Day Four

Memory Verse: *Christ died for everyone. He died so that those who live should not live for themselves anymore. They should live for Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:15 NIRV*

Materials (G2 Provides): Gospel Tool

Materials (PROVIDED BY MISSION TEAM): Scripture Memory Prize

Salvation Illustration Follow-Up:

After Salvation Illustration present the gospel using the resource provided by Graffiti 2. Give children an opportunity to ask questions and the opportunity to pray.

Ask students questions about the story and give prizes for correct answer.

Memory Verse Recitation:

Check to see if students have memorized the verse. Give a prize to students who recite it from memory.

Prayer:

Say: We are going to close our Bible studies for this week with prayer. Does anybody have a reason to say thank-you to God or a reason to ask for His help?

Pray



WEEK FOUR—WHAT IS THE FARE?

Day One

Memory Verse: “*Say with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord.’ Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved.*” (Romans 10:9)

Materials (G2 Provides): Memory verse cards; boundary markers; 3 pennies/tokens for each student;

Activity: Token Tag

Establish boundaries for the game. Give every student 3 pennies. Divide students into an A team and a B team. At the beginning of play, the A Team is it. The A team tries to tag anyone on the B team. If a student is tagged, he or she must give up a penny to the person that tagged him or her. During play, switch the team who is “it” by calling the team name (i.e. “B Team”). Now the roles are reversed. At the end of play, give a piece of candy for every penny that a person has.

Lesson:

In our game, to get the prize at the end, you had to pay a price. It’s kind of like a Metrocard fare. In fact the fare to ride the train used to be a token that looked a little like a penny, not a Metrocard.

What is a Metrocard used for? [A Metrocard gains you entry to the train. Without it, you’re not supposed to ride the train.]

For the past three weeks you have learned about *Takin’ the 252 Train*. Did you know that the *252 Train* isn’t free to ride? It has a cost.

Following God requires perfect obedience. That means you must always listen to him and obey. The problem is that none of us are able to do that. There are times that we listen to others or listen to ourselves instead of him.

That is how we defined sin. Sin is obeying anything beside God. It’s connecting your train to anything else besides God.

The Bible makes it clear that sin leads to death. That track which we are all on is a path of destruction. In fact, death is the price that must be paid for sin.

Because of this sin, when you swipe your Metrocard to get on the *252 Train* it comes up “insufficient fare.”

Jesus though was different. He lived his life in perfect obedience to God. He didn’t live his life to give us an example of what it means to obey God, he lived it so that he could be our way of following God. It’s kind of like he says, “I’ll swipe you through...I’ll pay the price.”

Jesus paid that price when he died on the cross. Remember last week’s verse? “*Christ died for everyone. He died so that those who live should not live for themselves anymore. They should live for Christ.*”(2 Corinthians 5:15 NIRV)

Jesus was able to pay that price. He died, so that we wouldn’t have to die. Unlike us, he had the power over life and death. He was able to beat death and come back to life.

Even though that price has been paid, we have to accept Jesus’ gift and swipe the card. That’s done through faith. Listen to what our memory verse says. “*Say with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord.’ Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved.*” (Romans 10:9)

What does it mean to “say it with your mouth?” [Emphasize we can only say what is true.]

What does it mean “Jesus is Lord?” [Emphasize Jesus must be your boss]

What does it mean to “believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead?” [Emphasize that Jesus is living. If he’s living, he is alive now and he wants to be alive in your life]

What does it mean to be “saved?” [Emphasize to be saved means two things. 1) To be saved from a meaningless and purposeless life focused only on yourself and 2) To be saved from being separated from God forever.



WEEK FOUR—WHAT IS THE FARE?

Day Two

Memory Verse: “*Say with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord.’ Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved.*” (Romans 10:9)

Materials (G2 Provides): Memory verse written on small pieces of paper; clothes pins; large sponges; plastic tub of water

Review:

The theme this summer is *Takin’ the 252: The train you’re on determines where you go*. Jesus showed us how to ride the 252 Train. Luke 2:52 tells us that he was on that train from your age. It says, “Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people.”

Memory Verse:

Our memory verse tells us how we can get on that train. It says, “*Say with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord.’ Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved.*” (Romans 10:9)

Let’s practice reciting this verse several times. We are trying to memorize it. If you memorize it this week, you will receive a small prize at the end of the week. Also, it will help with the game we are going to play in a few minutes.

[Recite verse several times]

Is it possible to say with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and it not be true? [Emphasize that the Bible talks a lot about people who say one thing and do another. People judge on the outside, but the Bible says God knows our heart. He says for us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.]

Why does it matter if you believe that Jesus was raised from the dead? [Emphasize that if Jesus was raised from the dead, then he is alive now. If he is alive now, he wants to be alive in our lives.]

[Take this opportunity to share your own testimony]

We are going to play a game to help us memorize this verse.

Game: Memory Verse Game

Write the memory verse one word or phrase at a time on a small piece of paper. Prepare enough for each team to have one full verse. With clothes pins, hang all the papers on the fence. Prepare a large plastic tub full of water and have one large, car-wash sponge for each team. Divide the students into teams. Teams line up 15 feet from the plastic tub of water. At the start, toss a wet sponge to the first person on each team. On your command, they must toss the sponge in the tub. If they miss, they must retrieve the sponge, return to their starting point, and try again. Once they make it in the water, they retrieve it from the tub, toss it to the next player, then go pick a word or phrase from the fence. The next person in the line repeats. As they collect the words, they put them in order to form the verse.



WEEK FOUR—WHAT IS THE FARE?

Day Three

Memory Verse: “*Say with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord.’ Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved.*” (Romans 10:9)

Materials (G2 Provides): The Action Bible

Review:

The theme this summer is *Takin’ the 252: The train you’re on determines where you go.*

Bible Story:

Jesus showed us how to ride the *252 Train*. Luke 2:52 tells us that he was on that train from your age. It says, “Jesus became wiser and stronger. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people.” This summer we have learned about his wisdom, how he pleased God, helped others, and this week about his strength.

Many might look at the story we read yesterday and think that Jesus was weak. The Bible says though that is when he was his strongest. He was so obedient to his Father and had so much love for us that he willingly died a horrible death so that we could have the opportunity to “stop living for ourselves and start living for him” (2 Corinthians 5:15...last week’s memory verse). He did this so you could switch your track (Last week’s theme).

The story doesn’t end there though. He continues to show his strength in the story we are going to read today.

Read “The Sealed Tomb” and “Ascension” (pages 131-134 and pages 139-140 in The Action Bible)

Discussion:

Why did they seal the tomb? [They knew Jesus predicted he would rise from the dead and were afraid someone would steal the body]

What happened before the sunrise on Sunday morning? [There was an earthquake and an angel rolled the stone away.]

What did the angel tell Mary Magdalene and her friends? [Jesus had risen. Tell the disciples.]

When Jesus appeared to 500 of his followers, what did he tell others to do? [Share the Good News with all people.]

What makes His story Good News? [He completed God’s saving work. This week we found out that there is a cost to ride that train. It’s a cost that we can’t pay, but Jesus did. Our memory verse told us how to accept Jesus’ free swipe. “*Say with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord.’ Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved.*” Romans 10:9]

Where did Jesus go? [To heaven]



WEEK FOUR—WHAT IS THE FARE?

Day Four

Memory Verse: *“Say with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord.’ Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)*

Materials (G2 Provides): Gospel Tool

Materials (PROVIDED BY MISSION TEAM): Scripture Memory Prize

Salvation Illustration Follow-Up:

After Salvation Illustration present the gospel using the resource provided by Graffiti 2. Give children an opportunity to ask questions and the opportunity to pray.

Ask students questions about the story and give prizes for correct answer.

Memory Verse Recitation:

Check to see if students have memorized the verse. Give a prize to students who recite it from memory.

Prayer:

Say: We are going to close our Bible studies for this week with prayer. Does anybody have a reason to say thank-you to God or a reason to ask for His help?

Pray