



Totally Catholic Elementary

Crew Leader Guide



Our Sunday Visitor

vbs.osv.com

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What's a Crew Leader?

If you've been asked to be a Crew Leader, you've met two important qualifications: You love the Lord, and you love children.

During Kingdom Rock VBS, you'll visit different activities with a group of three to five children. *You're not in charge of preparing or teaching activities; you just get to be there and help kids enjoy them as you shepherd the members of your Crew.* The following guidelines will help you be the most awesome Crew Leader.

A Crew Leader is...

- ❖ a friend and helper.
- ❖ someone who knows and calls kids by name.
- ❖ someone who offers kid choices.
- ❖ someone who asks questions.
- ❖ someone who encourages kids.
- ❖ someone who supports Station Leaders.



Use positive words like these:

- ❖ Let's keep moving so we can do as many fun activities as possible.
- ❖ Listen carefully so you'll know what to do next.
- ❖ Stay with the Crew; we need your help in this activity!
- ❖ That's a unique way of doing things! How did you think of that? Let's try it this way.
- ❖ It's important that we all follow the instructions and work together as a team.
- ❖ Please move over here so you can see better.
- ❖ Let's all sit in a circle so we can see and hear one another better.
- ❖ Those crafts and Buddies sure are cool! Let's keep them put away so we can hear about this next activity.



Who's Who in the Crew

During their first Totally Catholic Sing & Play Rock session, kids will choose Crew jobs. Each child will have one of the jobs listed in the chart below. If children can't agree on who should perform each job, tell them that everyone will get a chance to do all the jobs. Assign jobs to kids for Day 1; then rotate jobs each day so that by the end of the week, all children in the Crew have had an opportunity to do each job. If your Crew has fewer than five kids, some kids may have more than one job.

Kids are excited about having special jobs. Encourage them to fulfill their roles, and provide lots of opportunities for them to do so.

Jobs	Duties
Guide	chooses action ideas for traveling through Kingdom Rock (such as galloping, "flying," or marching)
Materials Manager	distributes and collects supplies and helps carry the Crew's bag
Prayer Person	leads or opens prayer times
Schedule Supervisor	helps monitor the daily schedule to let the Crew know what's coming next
Thank You-er	leads the Crew in thanking Station Leaders each day

Crews Are Like a Family

Every member of your mixed-age Crew adds something to every activity!

I'm going into fourth grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to be challenged. I can help younger members of my Crew with challenging projects.

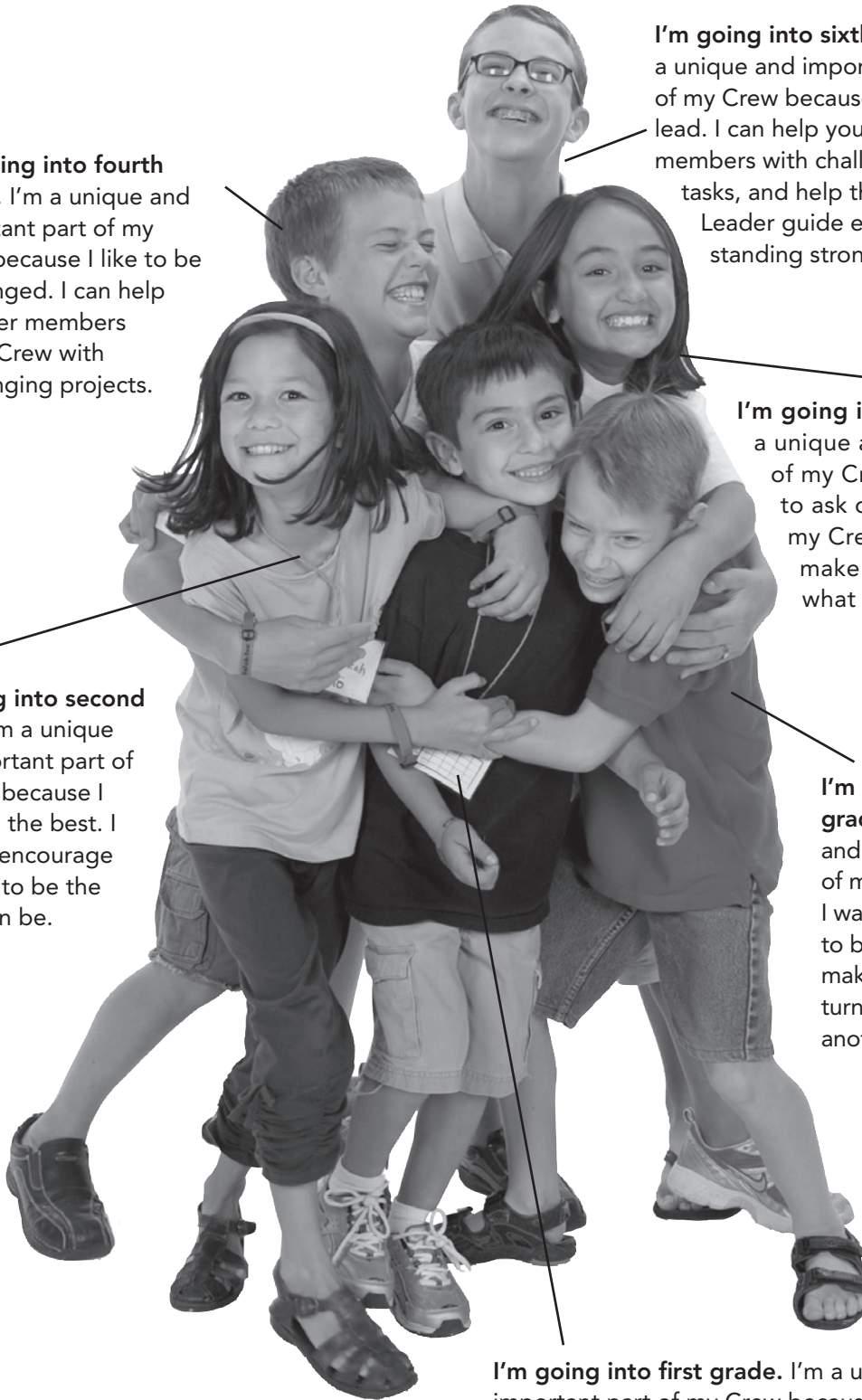
I'm going into sixth grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to lead. I can help younger Crew members with challenging tasks, and help the Crew Leader guide everyone in standing strong for God.

I'm going into fifth grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to ask questions. I can help my Crew ask questions to make sure we understand what we're learning.

I'm going into second grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to be the best. I can help encourage my Crew to be the best it can be.

I'm going into third grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I want everything to be fair. I can help make sure we all take turns and treat one another fairly.

I'm going into first grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I have a great imagination. I can help my Crew pretend we're really in a dark valley!



What Do I Do at Each Station?



Totally Catholic Sing & Play Rock is where kids sing upbeat action songs. Your job at Sing & Play Rock is to

- arrive a few minutes early.
- greet your Crew members in your designated seating area.
- follow the motions, and sing out loud.
- listen to kids' God Sightings (and share yours).
- remember that if you get involved, the kids will too!



Totally Catholic Imagination Station is where kids can play and discover as they use amazing Science-Fun Gizmos™! Kids will also receive a different People of Faith card each day. Your job at Imagination Station is to

- listen carefully to the instructions because you will most likely need to repeat them!
- help kids complete their activities (*when they need help*).
- help clean up your area before leaving.



Totally Catholic Chadder's Royal Theatre is where kids watch the Chadder's Adventures DVD and talk about Operation Kid-to-Kid. Kids also receive special Bible Memory Buddies. Your job at Chadder's Royal Theatre and Missions is to

- encourage kids to tune in and watch the video.
- lead your Crew in participating in the activities before and after the video.
- lead kids in discussion when it's called for.



Totally Catholic King's Kitchen is where Crews come for a tasty snack. Your job at the King's Kitchen is to

- gather your Crew in a designated area.
- help your Crew focus on the King's Kitchen Leader as he or she explains the snack.
- lead kids in discussing God Sightings, writing them on a God Sightings Stone, and attaching them to the designated God Sightings wall.
- help kids clean up your area before leaving.



Totally Catholic Tournament Games is where kids play team-building games. (One day of VBS, your Crew will skip games to help make treats for the entire VBS!) Your job at Tournament Games is to

- listen carefully to the instructions so you can help your Crew members follow them.
- perform any tasks the games leader assigns you.
- participate in each activity, and cheer on your Crew members as they participate.



Surprise!

One day your Crew will arrive at Totally Catholic Tournament Games to discover that you're starring in the day's Spotlight VBS! Spotlight VBS is a customized slide show featuring the kids and leaders at Kingdom Rock. So smile! Join in the fun, and be prepared to see yourself on the big screen.



Totally Catholic Epic Bible Adventures is where kids *experience* the Bible story. Your job at Epic Bible Adventures is to

- line up with your Crew outside the door.
- listen carefully to hear how Crew Leaders should help out that day.
- keep your Crew together until you receive other directions.
- encourage Crew members to participate.



Totally Catholic Fanfare Finale is where kids experience an exciting review of the day's lesson. Your role at Fanfare Finale is to

- lead kids to your assigned seating area.
- participate in singing and other activities.
- remind your Crew to participate without being rowdy or disruptive.
- make sure each child leaves with his or her Science-Fun Gizmo and Totally Catholic Bible Band.
- collect Crew members' name badges and Bible Memory Buddies and store them in your Crew bag.

What Are Totally Catholic Bible Bands?

Bible Bands are intentionally woven into Kingdom Rock as a fun and personal way for kids to connect to Scripture. Here's how they work:

- ❖ You awesome Crew Leaders will hand out Bible Bands to each child during Totally Catholic Epic Bible Adventures. (These colorful cuffs are an integral part of each Bible adventure!)
- ❖ Each unique Bible Band ties into that day's Kingdom Rock Bible story.
- ❖ Every Bible Band guides kids in applying the Scripture they learned at Kingdom Rock Totally Catholic VBS to their everyday lives.

Bible Bands are easy to fold into fun-to-wear wristbands that seal with a sticker. That means no more take-home papers that get left at the parish. Kids will be excited to show them off to their friends and family!



Tip From the

TOWER

Kids can take off their Bible Bands during Totally Catholic Tournament Games if they want to. But be sure to send them home at the end of the day!



Kingdom Rock Bible Memory Buddies®

Bible Memory Buddies are now *able* to do more!



Bible Memory Buddies are the perfect way to help kids share their faith. And this year, the Buddies are cooler than ever!

- ❖ They're **durable...**
These collectible keepsakes will last long after VBS is over.
- ❖ They're **wearable...**
The Bible Buddy tags slide easily onto the Safe-Keeper Buddy Chain for handy access day after day.
- ❖ They're **readable...**
Each Buddy has the day's Bible verse clearly written on the back.
- ❖ They're **shareable...**
Kids won't be able to wait to show off their Buddies to all their friends and share the meaning behind each one.
- ❖ *And now for the coolest part, they're* **downloadable...**
Kids can hear from the Bible Buddies through the Kingdom Rock Bible Buddies app. It's simple! Once you've downloaded the app, just point your smartphone or tablet at the Buddy tag. Wow! Kids will see a 3-D Buddy move *and* hear the Buddy say the daily Bible Point and Bible verse! Kids can even take pictures with the Buddies, and much more!

To see the Bible Buddies in action, log on to vbsbuddies.com!



What to Do If...

Most of the time, things will go smoothly for your Crew, but every once in a while, you may run into a dilemma. Here's some advice on how to handle different challenges.



If my Crew won't stay together...

Encourage your Guide to come up with creative ways to travel. Or work with your Thank You-er to come up with cheers to say as you travel.



If older kids are unhappy being grouped with mixed ages...

Highlight their helping role. Encourage them to help younger kids with crafts and other activities. Acknowledge them by telling younger kids, "[Name of older child] is really good at that. Why don't you ask him [or her] to help?"

If I have a clique in my Crew...

Cliques can make the Crew experience unhappy for the outsiders. Encourage friendships among all Crew members by pairing kids with partners they don't know very well during games and crafts.

If a Crew member won't participate...

Help shy children feel welcome by calling them by name and asking them questions directly. Respond to their questions with a smile and a statement such as "That's really interesting!" Also try giving children special jobs. For example, assign them the task of finding a place for your Crew to sit at each station.

If someone doesn't want to participate in Tournament Games, that's OK. Kingdom Rock Totally Catholic VBS can be tiring! Let children rest until they're ready to participate.

If people in my Crew don't get along...

Quietly take the children aside. Tell them you've noticed that they're not getting along. Let them know that although they don't have to be best friends, they do have to be together all week, so things will be a lot more fun if they can at least be kind to one another. (Use the daily Bible Points for these teachable moments!)



If I have an overly active child...

Pair this child with yourself during partner activities, and suggest that he or she sit with you during quiet times. Try to make sitting still a game by saying, "Let's see how long you can sit still without interrupting. I'm timing you. Ready? Go!"

If those suggestions don't work well enough, ask your Director if you could have an assistant Crew Leader to help the child focus and participate.

If my Crew gets too big...

Kingdom Rock VBS is a blast, so it's likely that kids will want to bring friends. However, the activities at Kingdom Rock are designed to work with a mixed-age Crew of no more than five kids. If you have a small Crew, you'll welcome a few additional friends into your Crew family. But if your Crew grows past five children, talk with your Kingdom Rock Director as soon as possible. He or she will need to form a new Crew so kids can have the best experience possible.



Top 4 Crew Leader Tips

Participate!

- ❖ Sing the songs and do the motions.
- ❖ Play the games.
- ❖ Be curious in Totally Catholic Imagination Station.
- ❖ Use your imagination in Totally Catholic Epic Bible Adventures.
- ❖ Share your own God Sightings.

Support the Station Leaders.

- ❖ Quickly form knee-to-knee circles.
- ❖ Listen to each Station Leader, and encourage kids to listen too.
- ❖ Put the Crew bag out of the way during activities.
- ❖ Be enthusiastic.
- ❖ Lavish your attention on the kids.
- ❖ Turn off your cell phone. Contact your friends after Totally Catholic VBS.
- ❖ Use kids' names in kind and loving ways.

Use eye-to-eye contact.

- ❖ Give hugs or high fives throughout the day.
- ❖ Be there for the kids as they arrive. Get there early. Check with your Totally Catholic VBS Director to see when he or she would like you to arrive each day.

Be positive.

- ❖ Model the behavior that you want kids to have.
- ❖ Positively acknowledge kids' answers to questions. Rather than saying "No... that's the wrong answer," say "Thanks for sharing. Anyone else have thoughts?"
- ❖ Smile!
- ❖ Have fun!



OUR CATHOLIC VIEW

David writes about God's love.

Read Psalm 23

With This in Mind...

- ❖ This is a song of trust; David trusted in God, and the sheep relied on David to care for them. In Old Testament times, God was often portrayed as the good shepherd.
- ❖ While we may think of a rod as a long, narrow walking stick, a rod used during Old Testament times was more like a club that shepherds wore at their waist. A shepherd also carried a staff—like a walking stick—and used it to guide and control the sheep.
- ❖ Shepherds usually had to keep their sheep on the move in order to find lush green pastures that offered plenty of grass. The verb meaning “to lie down” used in the ancient text was mainly used in reference to sheep and small cattle.
- ❖ It was customary during these times for a gracious, generous host to pour fragrant oil on his guest's forehead as a sign of honor.



Bible Point: God's love helps us stand strong.

Why It Matters...

Kids are concrete thinkers, which may make the idea of *relationship* with our unseen God hard to understand. But God desires a relationship with all of us! Children do realize that relationships with others—the love of their family and friends—are necessary for their happiness. So they can begin to understand a relationship with God the Father who loves them more than any human person. That relationship gives us the strength and desire to do the Father's will, to seek him, and to please him. When life's troubles make kids feel like giving up or losing hope, today's Bible Point will be a reminder of *why* we stand firm. Encourage kids with the truth that their gracious, loving God, like their family members and friends who love them, is beside them every step of the way.

CATHOLIC ID: Holy Oils

The act of anointing with oil figures prominently in Scripture as a sign of God's blessing, of mission, and of healing. In Psalm 23, David writes of being anointed. Jesus was anointed with precious oil by the Fallen Woman, and other references to anointing with oil are found throughout the Old and New Testaments. We use blessed oils in many ways in the Catholic Church. The *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* (page 205) notes that sacred chrism is used to anoint the newly baptized, to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation, and during the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, when priests and bishops are anointed. The Oil of Catechumens is used for the Sacrament of Baptism, and the Oil of the Sick is used for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Day 1

Bible Point: God's love helps us stand strong!

God Sightings®

This week at Kingdom Rock, we're looking for signs of God all around us...we call these things *God Sightings*. The more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

Today point out things in each child that are special, and identify these as gifts from God. You may even help kids be God Sightings, showing God's love to someone else. Here are a few examples:

- ❖ Thank a child for being kind to someone else. Say, "God gave you a sweet, friendly smile!"
- ❖ During games, say, "God gave you the gift of laughter! Aren't games a fun time to share that gift?"
- ❖ When a child is exploring with Scieny-Fun Gizmos, comment, "You're creative...just like God is! I think about God's creativity when I look at you."

Tip From the

TOWER

Sit in knee-to-knee circles for discussions. Call on kids by their Crew role. For example, say, "I'd like our Guide and our Prayer Person to answer the next question."

Tip From the

TOWER

A God Sighting is *not* "I see God in that tree." A God Sighting is "I see God's creativity and power because only God can make a tree." God Sightings are seeing things that God has created, allowed, provided, done, or revealed to us.



Your Director's Tips:

Wrap-Up Questions: Well, Well, Well

- ❓ **What did you like about passing the water this way?**
(It was fun to get wet; I liked running; it cooled me off.)

Say: As you passed the sponge, you all got a little bit on you. Did you know that God's love is like that, too? Ask:

- ❓ **What's one way you can pass along, or share, God's awesome love?** (Be kind; pray for someone; say nice words.)
- ❓ **How do you feel when you share God's love?** (Good; happy; like I did the right thing.)

Say: God's love helps us...*stand strong!*
God's love is worth sharing!

OUR CATHOLIC VIEW

Mordecai encourages Esther to do the right thing.

Read Esther 1–9

With This in Mind...

- ❖ Esther lived in a culture that was vastly different from ours today. Persian society viewed women as property, capital punishment was a public event, and kings annihilated entire groups of people in order to establish a kingdom.
- ❖ Mordecai believed in God's sovereign plan for placing Esther in the role of queen so she could save God's People.
- ❖ Haman offered an enormous sum of money to the men who would annihilate the Hebrews. The sum of 10,000 talents of silver was nearly two-thirds of the annual income of the entire kingdom and would be equal to six hundred tons of silver, an incredible amount that can't be interpreted as a literal quantity.
- ❖ King Xerxes gave Haman his signet ring to seal the deal to destroy the Hebrews.
- ❖ The book of Esther ends with the inauguration of a festival called Purim. Today, those of the Jewish faith still celebrate Purim, usually in March. Leaders read the Book of Esther in the synagogue. Congregants cheer when they hear Mordecai's name and hiss when they hear Haman's name.



Bible Point: Family and friends help us stand strong.

Why It Matters...

The kids at Totally Catholic VBS may not face the life-and-death decisions that Esther faced, but they *do* tackle daunting challenges. Bullies, temptation, doubt, divorce in the family, and disbelief can make it hard to stand strong and follow God. But most children have at least one friend or family member they can rely on during hard times. During VBS, you'll be fostering plenty of positive *new* relationships that can bolster a child's courage and faith! This is a great time to also help kids understand the importance of choosing friends who will help them, not hurt them. Today, remind kids that they can look to supportive family, friends, parish leaders—and Church teachings—to help them stand strong when they face tough situations.

CATHOLIC ID: Communion of Saints

Those who believe in Jesus and follow his way are part of the Communion of Saints. This includes people alive on Earth—family, friends, and all who believe—and people who have died and are in Purgatory or Heaven. We join with the Communion of Saints when we celebrate the Eucharist. We can pray with the Communion of Saints and ask for their intercession, finding models of living and heroic virtue among them. The Communion of Saints also includes holy elements, especially the Eucharist (*USCCA*, page 161). Through the Eucharist, we are all joined as the Body of Christ.

Day 2

Bible Point: Family and friends help us stand strong!

God Sightings®

God Sightings are a great way to help kids see that God is active all around us. The more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

Tip From the

TOWER

As a Crew Leader, you are the chief God Sightings encourager! Have fun with your Crew members as you look for God in action each day.



Today, help Crew members identify something—or someone—God has given to help us feel better. You may even help kids *be* God Sightings, showing God's love to someone else. Here are a few examples...

- ❖ Thank God for parents or caregivers who give hugs and dry tears.
- ❖ Point out that the Bible is a gift from God. Tell children that the words in the Bible can help us when we feel sad.
- ❖ Tell children that you feel God's joy and happiness when you hear them singing.

Wrap-Up Questions: Lean on Me

❓ How did your partner help you in this game? (We worked together to make the goal; he encouraged me.)

Say: When we say we "lean on someone," it means we have a good friend, and we trust them. Ask:

❓ How can you be a good friend...that someone can lean on? (I can listen when a friend is sad; I can always say good things about my friend; I can help when my friend needs me.)

Your Director's Tips:

OUR CATHOLIC VIEW

Nehemiah perseveres to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem.

Read Nehemiah 1–6

With This in Mind...

- ❖ After the Hebrews returned from exile, Nehemiah, along with Ezra, Haggai, and Zechariah, wrote of the rebuilding of the Temple and Hebrew society.
- ❖ The name *Nehemiah* means “the comfort of God.”
- ❖ As the king’s cupbearer, Nehemiah likely had the king’s trust and confidence. A cupbearer not only brought the king his wine but usually tasted it before the king drank to be sure the drink wasn’t poisoned.
- ❖ Babylonians, led by Nebuchadnezzar, destroyed the walls surrounding Jerusalem before Nehemiah’s time. This destruction left the Israelites vulnerable to many surrounding enemies.
- ❖ Ezra 4:17-23 tells that Artaxerxes—the very same king Nehemiah served—had previously stopped the Israelites from rebuilding the wall. It’s a wonder that he allowed Nehemiah the time and permission to attempt this task.



Bible Point: Prayer helps us stand strong.

Why It Matters...

Today’s culture makes it easy to get too busy for time with God. One result is that kids aren’t tapping into one of their greatest sources of spiritual strength—regular, ongoing conversations with God! Prayer is a powerful tool in helping all of us stay tuned in to God’s voice, something that Saint Peter, our first Pope and the “rock” upon which Jesus built his Church (see Matthew 16:18), understood well. The Acts of the Apostles tells us that Peter prayed often; encourage kids to do the same. When kids face opposition or temptation, prayer quickly connects them with the heart of their loving God. Use today’s experiences to help kids realize the awesome power of prayer and how a conversation with God can give them the power to stand strong.

CATHOLIC ID: Feasts & Seasons

The Church prays all year, and we use colors to mark the time on our liturgical calendar: violet for Advent, white for Christmas (gold is a secondary color that may be substituted for the white), green for Ordinary Time, violet for Lent, and white or gold for Easter. These periods of time are called seasons, and Christ and his saving work are present throughout each season of the liturgical year (*USCCA*, page 173). We also have special colors to mark important days and events in our faith history, and feast days to remember the lives of the Saints. The feast days and memorials on the calendar remind us to give God our praise for his accomplishments in Mary, the Mother of God, and the Saints who stood strong and persevered in prayer. These days encourage us to practice the virtues modeled by the Saints.

Day 3

Bible Point: Prayer helps us stand strong!

God Sightings®

Keep looking for signs of God all around us. The more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

Today, help your Crew members look for special people who show God's love! Here are a few examples...

- ✦ Lead kids in being a God Sighting to your Totally Catholic VBS Director. Let kids take time to thank him or her for watching over them and creating so many great ways to learn about God at Kingdom Rock.
- ✦ Point out all the warm, loving people at Kingdom Rock who show God's love and joy.
- ✦ Thank a child for being loving, kind, or gentle to another Crew member.
- ✦ Ask kids to thank the person who brought them to VBS.



Wrap-Up Questions: Knights in Knots

- ❓ In life, what problems make you feel all tangled up or confused? (Gossip; when people fight.)
- ❓ What do you do when you have those problems? (Pray; tell my parents; talk to my friends.)

Say: The Bible gives us great words of wisdom. In the book of Philippians, chapter 4, verse 6, it says, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer...let your requests be made known to God." God is listening to you. He wants you to tell him everything—big or small. When life ties you up in knots, you don't have to be silent and figure it out for yourself. Turn to God. **Prayer helps us...stand strong!**

Close in a short prayer. **God, please hear us as we silently tell you one thing that's troubling us...something that's making us feel tangled up and confused.** Pause while kids silently pray. Thank you that you always hear us when we pray. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Your Director's Tips:

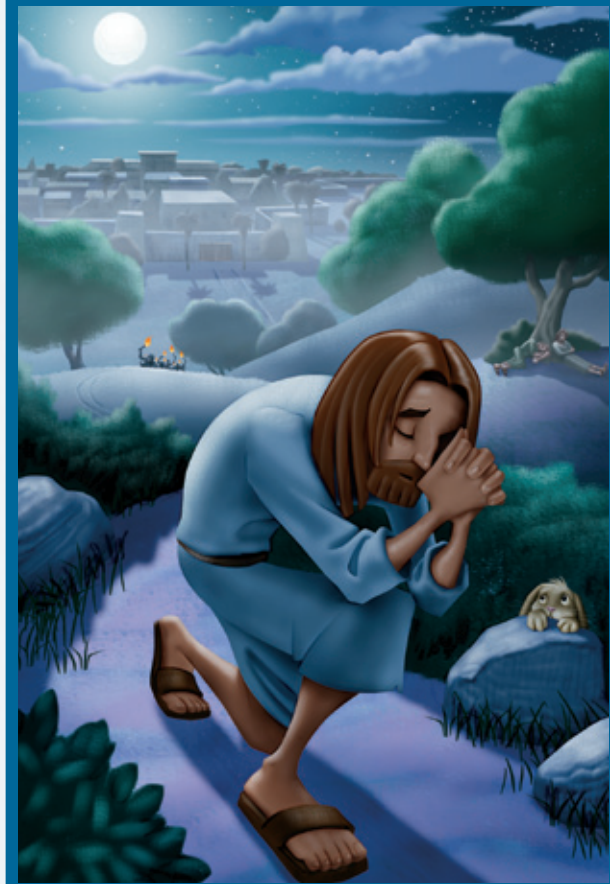
OUR CATHOLIC VIEW

Jesus dies and rises to new life.

Read Luke 22:39–24:12

With This in Mind...

- ❖ Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed, means “olive press.”
- ❖ As he prayed, Jesus knew the physical pain he would soon endure on the Cross. He also knew the spiritual torment that awaited him, so he turned to his Father for comfort. Perhaps that’s why Jesus used the familiar Aramaic term *Abba* when he poured out his heart to God. While our *Roman Missal* translates the word as “Father,” *Abba* can also be translated as “Daddy.”
- ❖ When Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple ripped from top to bottom. Most scholars believe this was the curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place (also called the Holy of Holies) in the Temple. Once a year, a priest entered the Most Holy Place and made a sacrifice for the people. The torn curtain symbolized that Jesus was the perfect sacrifice and has become the “way” to the Father.



Bible Point: Trusting God helps us stand strong.

Why It Matters...

If you’ve ever asked a child to do something hard or unpleasant, you probably got a whiny response of “Do I have to?” Obedience can be hard...for kids *and* adults! It’s tempting to give up, do things an easier way, or even ignore what God wants us to do. But a steadfast faith in God and openness to his grace can pull us through those temptations, giving us the courage to stand strong and do as he commands. Today you’ll help kids discover that Jesus chose to follow the will of his Father. Jesus trusted God, stood strong, and did something so incredible that it has the power to change our lives for eternity. Guide kids in celebrating what it means to trust God with every part of our lives and to boldly follow his calling in our lives.

CATHOLIC ID: Stations of the Cross

As Jesus carried his Cross, he continued to trust in God. We commemorate his journey with the Stations of the Cross, which focus on fourteen events during Christ’s Passion. The devotional practice of the Stations of the Cross began in the early Church, when pilgrims would visit the various sites in Jerusalem that were associated with Jesus’ suffering and Death. Devotions such as the Stations of the Cross are forms of prayer that are powerful and spiritually beneficial (*USCCA*, page 297). Most Catholic church buildings contain the fourteen Stations of the Cross, which begin with Jesus’ condemnation to death on the Cross and end when he is placed in the tomb. Mary, his Mother, was present throughout the Passion, and she appears in several of the Stations. Her meeting with her Son as he carried the Cross is depicted in the fourth Station. Some parishes also include a fifteenth Station marking the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as the final step in his journey.

Elementary Crew Leader Guide

Day 4

Bible Point: Trusting God helps us stand strong!



Connecting Kids to Justice

If you have time between stations during the week, lead children to the Connecting Kids to Justice donation bucket so they can drop off their coins in the Catholic Relief Services donation bucket. Remind kids that this is voluntary and that their parents can choose to make a donation online at catholicvbs.crs.org.

God Sightings®

God Sightings can help children discover that God is doing amazing things all around us every day.

Today, help Crew members look for God's incredible power. Here are a few examples...

- ❖ Point out the sun, and remind kids that only God could create the big, bright sun.
- ❖ If you're meeting at night, peek out at the night sky. Tell children how awesome it is that God can see everything, everywhere—day or night!
- ❖ Look for animals God created. Point out that only God could make so many different animals that fly, swim, flutter, and crawl.
- ❖ Lead kids in taking a giant breath, in and out. Thank God for his mighty power that gave us life.



Wrap-Up Questions: Four Kingdoms

- ❓ How did you feel when the Jester called your number? (Bored; annoyed; sad.)
- ❓ Tell about a time you got left out of something. (Let kids share.)

Say: At Kingdom Rock, you're hearing a lot about kids at [name of organization] who need to know that God loves all of us. But with the Operation Kid-to-Kid "God Loves You" Bible books, you'll be able to help these kids. You'll share the hope of God's love! Lead kids in praying for these kids by asking God to help them feel his warmth and love.

Your Director's Tips:

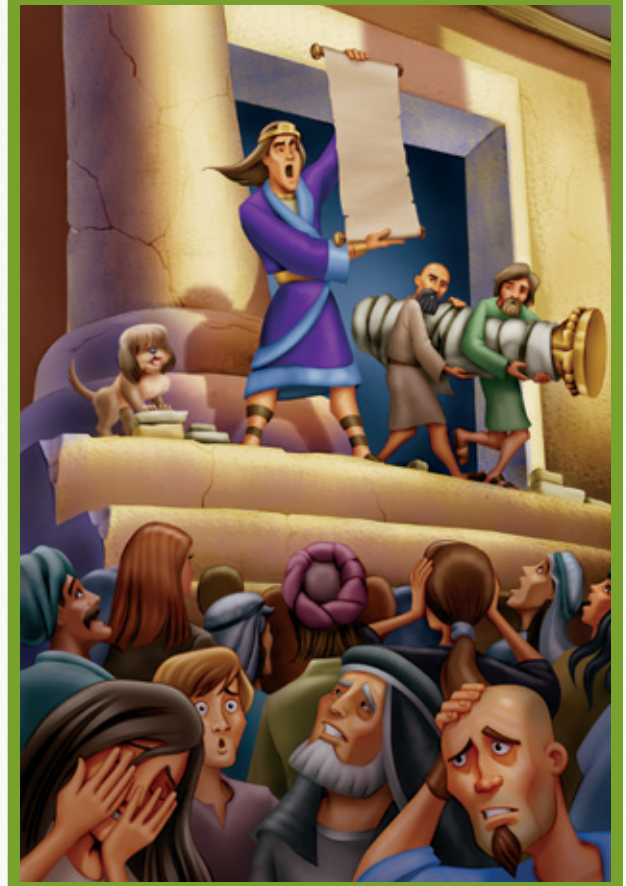
OUR CATHOLIC VIEW

King Josiah follows God's way.

Read 2 Kings 22:1–23:23

With This in Mind...

- ❖ Many of the kings who ruled after King David failed to lead the Israelites in the way God had commanded. By the time Josiah assumed the throne, Judah had adopted many Canaanite and Assyrian cultic practices. Some of God's People even worshipped idols and consulted mediums and spiritists.
- ❖ The Book of the Law found by Hilkiah the priest has long been identified by scholars as some form of the Book of Deuteronomy. It was likely the "Deuteronomic Code" (Deuteronomy 12–26) that was written during the reign of King Hezekiah.
- ❖ In an effort to draw the people of Judah back to God, King Josiah commanded a celebration of Passover. This was a celebration like no other! "No such passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah" (2 Kings 23:22).



Bible Point: The Bible helps us stand strong.

Why It Matters...

Kids today are used to having answers to many of their questions right at their fingertips. With easy access to Internet search engines and portable information on smartphones, kids can get any answer with a few mouse clicks or screen taps. What better time to guide kids toward God's Word—the ultimate source of answers! Scripture is timeless, continually guiding, encouraging, challenging, and giving hope. And Church Tradition helps us understand and apply God's written Word. Today's "plugged-in" kids desperately need to experience the unchanging relevance of the Bible in their everyday lives. Guide kids in exploring how God's Word in the Bible can give them strength today.

CATHOLIC ID: The Book of Gospels

Christ is the Word of God, truly present in the written Word, so the Church honors the Scriptures. The Book of Gospels is especially honored because the Gospels tell about the message and Person of Jesus Christ (USCCA, page 26). The Book of Gospels is revered by being carried in procession at Mass, being placed on the altar until the Gospel reading during the Liturgy of the Word, by incensing the Book, and by being kissed by the priest or deacon after reading the Gospel. When the priest or deacon processes from the altar to the ambo to proclaim the Gospel, he lifts the Book of Gospels high to honor the Word. If a bishop is present at the Mass, he will perform these actions. These actions show our reverence for the Word of God.

Day 5

Bible Point: The Bible helps us stand strong!

Tip From the

TOWER

- ❖ Continue building friendships long after Kingdom Rock is over. Fill out the "All About My Crew" information on each Crew member. After VBS, you'll be able to send postcards and birthday cards and greet kids who attend your parish.
- ❖ Give each child his or her Bible Memory Buddies and other fun goodies from Kingdom Rock Totally Catholic VBS.
- ❖ Thanks for *all* you've done to help children learn to stand strong for God!

God Sightings®

Today, help your Crew members look in unexpected places for clues that God has been at work! Here are a few examples...

- ❖ Can you find something in your Kingdom Rock Totally Catholic VBS that *only* God could make?
- ❖ As you travel between stations, point out smiles and listen for laughter. Those remind us of God's joy!
- ❖ Listen for Kingdom Rock songs that tell about God. See if kids can hear words that teach them something about what God is like.

Wrap-Up Questions: Pool Pass

- ❓ How did you feel when [Sir (or Lady) Name of Games Leader] told you to move the entire pool full of water? (Ridiculous; like it would be impossible; I didn't even want to try.)
- ❓ How is that like the way you feel when you hear parents or VBS leaders talk about reading the Bible? (It's kind of big; it seems hard.)

Say: The Bible is a big book. But you don't have to sit down and read through the entire thing all at once, and you have Church Tradition and Church leaders to help you understand Scripture. This week you've learned five verses that will help you in life. You've heard five stories from the Bible about people who loved and followed God. When you break it into smaller pieces, the Bible is totally something anyone can read. And that's important because **the Bible helps us...stand strong!**

Your Director's Tips:



All About My Crew



Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____



Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____



Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____



Name: _____

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