

RB Kids August 2018 Elementary Service Enhancements

August 2 & 5--Offer next steps in following God toward the end of large group. Feel free to personalize or localize this, but make it intentional and excellent (Draw Near #1)

Before the final worship song and giving time, say, **“When we talk about drawing near to God, we need to realize that that’s why He created us--to be close to Him. When we put ourselves in the right position to be close to God that means taking steps toward Him as he draws close to us.”**

“For some of us that might mean taking a FIRST step toward God by following Jesus. If that’s what you would like to do you can talk to your small group leader or kids minister today! Maybe some of you are already following Jesus, but you haven’t made that choice public by being baptized. If you want to talk to someone today about being baptized you can also let me, your SGL or your kids minister know. And maybe you’ve been following Jesus for awhile but you want some help to know how to be a good follower--you might not feel close to God because you’re not continuing to make Him the priority of your life. Maybe you’re looking for a good devotional or you need some help with some sin that you are struggling with. Don’t hesitate to ask for help, because that’s also taking a next step.”

“Finally, if you talk to your parents about one of these decisions, make sure your parents know they can call us and we would be glad to help! Your relationship with God is the most important part of life and when we focus on being in the right position we WILL experience God working in our lives.”

Transition to the Worship and giving time.

August 9 & 12--Share the Gospel (Draw Near #2) Again, feel free to share the gospel in your own words, but here is an outline.

Before the final worship song and giving time, say, **“There’s no doubt that God gave us His word to show us how to live, but it’s also an expression of His love for us. God gave us the Bible because He loves us. And that’s also why he sent Jesus. God demonstrated His love for us by sending Jesus to die on the cross and take our punishment. The Bible says that the punishment for sin is death--eternal separation from God. BUT the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus. And we can accept that gift in this way...**

A-Admit--We admit that we are sinners and our sin separates us from God. There is nothing we can do on our own to fix this problem so we turn away from our sin and ask God to forgive us.

B-Believe--We confess that we believe that Jesus, God’s only Son, died for our sins and rose from the grave. He’s alive! And we can have a real relationship with Him!

C-Choose--We choose to follow Jesus forever, committing to grow closer to Him each day. We choose to make Jesus the most important person/relationship in our life.

Say, “When we position ourselves in God’s word we learn and grow. Maybe your step of growth today is deciding to follow Jesus with your life. If you want to talk more about what it means to follow Jesus for your whole life talk to your small group leader or our kids ministry director or me!

Transition to the Worship and giving time.

August 16 & 19--**Show Baptisms--(Draw Near #3)**

Note: Today’s lesson is also very evangelistic. As we introduce baptism, don’t hesitate to give kids another opportunity to follow Jesus. Encourage kids to ask for follow up if they are interested in talking more about salvation or getting baptized.

We want to make baptism more visible for our kids and so while our adults are viewing baptisms every third week of the month, we want our kids to be able to do that, too. So we will provide a video of recent Rock Bridge baptisms (could be from any RB campus, any age group). We want to insert this into our program right before our final worship song/giving time.

This is a great moment to remind kids that baptism is a step (a next step) in following Jesus after we have made our initial decision. The act of baptism does not make us a Christian, but our obedience to God in the act is important. Feel free to use your own words and comfortable language to describe this.

Finally, check with your campus kids minister to see if they might be planning to escort kids to watch baptisms live in your adult venues. This may not be possible depending on your campus configuration, but your kids minister will be looking for potential opportunities.

August 23 & 26--**LG Prayer Project-(Draw Near #4)**

Choose an appropriate time during the LG lesson to take some time to pray, preferably after the Bible story and Main Point emphasis. Tech volunteers should adjust lighting and background music to enhance the mood.

- **Ask kids to gather around a small group leader on their rug or another rug nearer to where they are sitting. Help kids prepare to sit still and be reverent during this time.**
- **Begin prayer time by asking kids to be silent and consider all the ways God is amazing. (30 seconds)**
- **Ask small group leaders to pray out loud in their groups thanking God for who He is. (1 minute)**

- **Ask small group leaders to pray asking for forgiveness for our selfish and self centered prayers. Ask God to help us focus our prayer on Him. (Allow 1 minute)**
- **Ask kids to pray a sentence prayer out loud in their group. God thank you that you are_____ . (Allow one to two minutes)**
- **Close the time of prayer by praying out loud that God would help kids stay in a constant position of prayer (1 minute).**

Transition to the next element of LG.