

252 BASICS®

150 Bible stories + 36 virtues + 3 basic truths = 252 Basics

3 Basic Truths

"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52, NIV). So we want every kid to know and understand these three things: **I need to make the wise choice** (wisdom); **I can trust God no matter what** (faith); and **I should treat others the way I want to be treated** (friendship). All 252 Basics lessons focus on at least one of the three basic concept areas from this verse (wisdom, faith, and friendship) in addition to "traditional" concept areas (like God, Jesus, the Bible, the church, family, community, and self).

36 Virtues

"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness ... For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:3,8, NIV). God loves us dearly and wants us to be imitators of Him (Ephesians 5:1). So He is at work in us to make us more like Himself. As we become more like Him, He'll use those qualities, or virtues, in us to change the world around us. That's why 252 Basics content is organized into a different biblical virtue each month, a quality of God's nature that He instills in His followers. Twelve different virtues each year, for a total of 36 biblical virtues.

150 Bible Stories

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 16-17, NIV). All Scripture is equally inspired, but not equally applicable. (For example, you probably wouldn't tell first graders about David and Bathsheba!) Each lesson in 252 Basics revolves around one of about 150 Bible stories in a three-year span—what we consider the most relevant Bible stories for kindergarten through fifth grade.

Faith Skills

Every month that has a fifth week is a good opportunity to change gears, and so we do. Fifth weeks are typically dedicated to one of 5 Faith Skills we want every kid to master:

1. **Navigate the Bible** (survey and locate)
2. **Personalize Scripture** (memorize and apply)
3. **Dialogue with God** (public and private)
4. **Articulate faith** (share and defend)
5. **Worship with your life** (praise and give)



About God's plan for our salvation

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NIV). A simple explanation of the salvation message, based on John 3:16, is included in 252 Basics about every other month. It is presented in a clear, non-threatening way that fits naturally with the lesson.



SEPTEMBER 2010

core virtue

RESPECT • Showing others they are important by what you say and do

... AND JESUS GREW IN WISDOM
AND STATURE AND FAVOR WITH
GOD AND MAN. LUKE 2:52

memory verse • "Show proper respect to everyone." 1 Peter 2:17, NIV



	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
Sep 5	friendship / family / community	Who's the Boss? (showing respect for authority) • Romans 13:1-7	You respect God when you show respect for people in charge.
Sep 12	friendship / family / community	Actions Speak Louder (David spares Saul's life) • 1 Samuel 18; 19; 24	You can show respect with your actions.
Sep 19	friendship / family / community	What You Say (taming the tongue) • James 3:9-12	You can show respect with your words.
Sep 26	friendship / family / community	Chain of Command (the faith of the centurion) • Matthew 8:5-13	Show respect to God because He's in charge of everything.

OCTOBER 2010

core virtue

INITIATIVE • Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

memory verse • "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2:4, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
Oct 3	wisdom / community	Get a Clue (Nehemiah hears about the wall) • Nehemiah 1	When there's a job to be done, first you have to see it.
Oct 10	wisdom / community	Someone's Gotta Do It (Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem) • Nehemiah 2:1-9, 11-18	When there's a job to be done, don't wait for someone else to do it.
Oct 17	wisdom / community	Crime Seen (Nehemiah helps the poor) • Nehemiah 5:1-12	When there are people in need, don't wait for someone else to help them.
Oct 24	wisdom / community	Seeing Is Believing (the wall is rebuilt) • Nehemiah 6:15-16; 8:1-3a, 17b	When you've done what YOU can do, trust God to do what He can do.
Oct 31	articulate faith 	Look Who's Talking (Philip and the Ethiopian) • Acts 8:26-39	If someone asks what you believe, what will you say? 



NOVEMBER 2010

core virtue

UNIQUENESS • Learning more about others so you can know more about yourself

... AND JESUS GREW IN WISDOM
AND STATURE AND FAVOR WITH
GOD AND MAN. LUKE 2:52

memory verse • "There are different kinds of gifts. But they are all given by the same Spirit." 1 Corinthians 12:4, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
Nov 7	friendship / God / self	Stand Out (Deborah) • Judges 4:1-24	God made everybody different.
Nov 14	friendship / God / self	Mr. Nobody (Gideon battles the Midianites) • Judges 6:11-7:22	God made everybody a somebody.
Nov 21	friendship / God / self	Odd Man Out (John the Baptist) • Matthew 3:1-6	God can use anybody to share His message. 🌸
Nov 28	friendship / God / self	One in a Million (gifts of the Holy Spirit) • 1 Corinthians 12:1-11	God gave everybody special abilities.

DECEMBER 2010

core virtue

JOY • Finding a way to be happy, even when things don't go your way

memory verse • "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Philippians 4:4, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
Dec 5	faith / God / Jesus	Expecting (the birth of John the Baptist) • Luke 1:5-25, 57-79	You can have joy because God keeps His promises. 🌸
Dec 12	faith / God / Jesus	Believing (Gabriel appears to Mary) • Luke 1:26-38	You can have joy because anything is possible with God.
Dec 19	faith / God / Jesus	Rejoicing (Jesus is born) • Luke 2:1-20	You can have joy because God sent His Son. 🌸
Dec 26	faith / God / Jesus	Hoping (Simeon at the temple) • Luke 2:21-40	You can have joy because God has a plan to make things right.



JANUARY 2011

core virtue

DETERMINATION • Deciding it's worth it to finish what you've started

... AND JESUS GREW IN WISDOM
AND STATURE AND FAVOR WITH
GOD AND MAN. LUKE 2:52

memory verse • "Let us keep on running the race marked out for us." Hebrews 12:1, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story
Jan 2	wisdom / self	Leaving Egypt (the plagues) • Exodus 3; 5; 7-11; 12
Jan 9	wisdom / self	Desert Blues (40 years in the wilderness) • Numbers 14:1-39
Jan 16	wisdom / self	No Excuses (learning from Israel's history) • 1 Corinthians 10:6,11-13
Jan 23	wisdom / self	Finishing Right (Paul and his sufferings) • 2 Corinthians 11:23b-27; Acts 20:24
Jan 30	personalize Scripture 	Road Map (Paul advises Timothy) • 2 Timothy 3:16-17

bottom line

Keep doing what God says because He is God.

Keep doing what you should do so you don't miss something really good.

Keep doing what you should do because God says you can.

Keep doing what you should do even if it's hard.

Learning what God says will help you keep doing what you should.

FEBRUARY 2011

core virtue

KINDNESS • Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them

memory verse • "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story
Feb 6	friendship / community	Golden Rule (the principle of the Golden Rule) • Luke 6:17-20,27-36
Feb 13	friendship / community	Child Care (Jesus and the children) • Mark 10:13-16
Feb 20	friendship / community	You Belong (the least of these) • Matthew 25:35-40
Feb 27	friendship / community	Second Chance (Barnabas and Saul) • Acts 9:26-30

bottom line

Do to others what you want them to do to you.

Treat others the way Jesus would treat them.

Treat others as if they belong to God. 

Do for your enemies what they wouldn't do for you. 