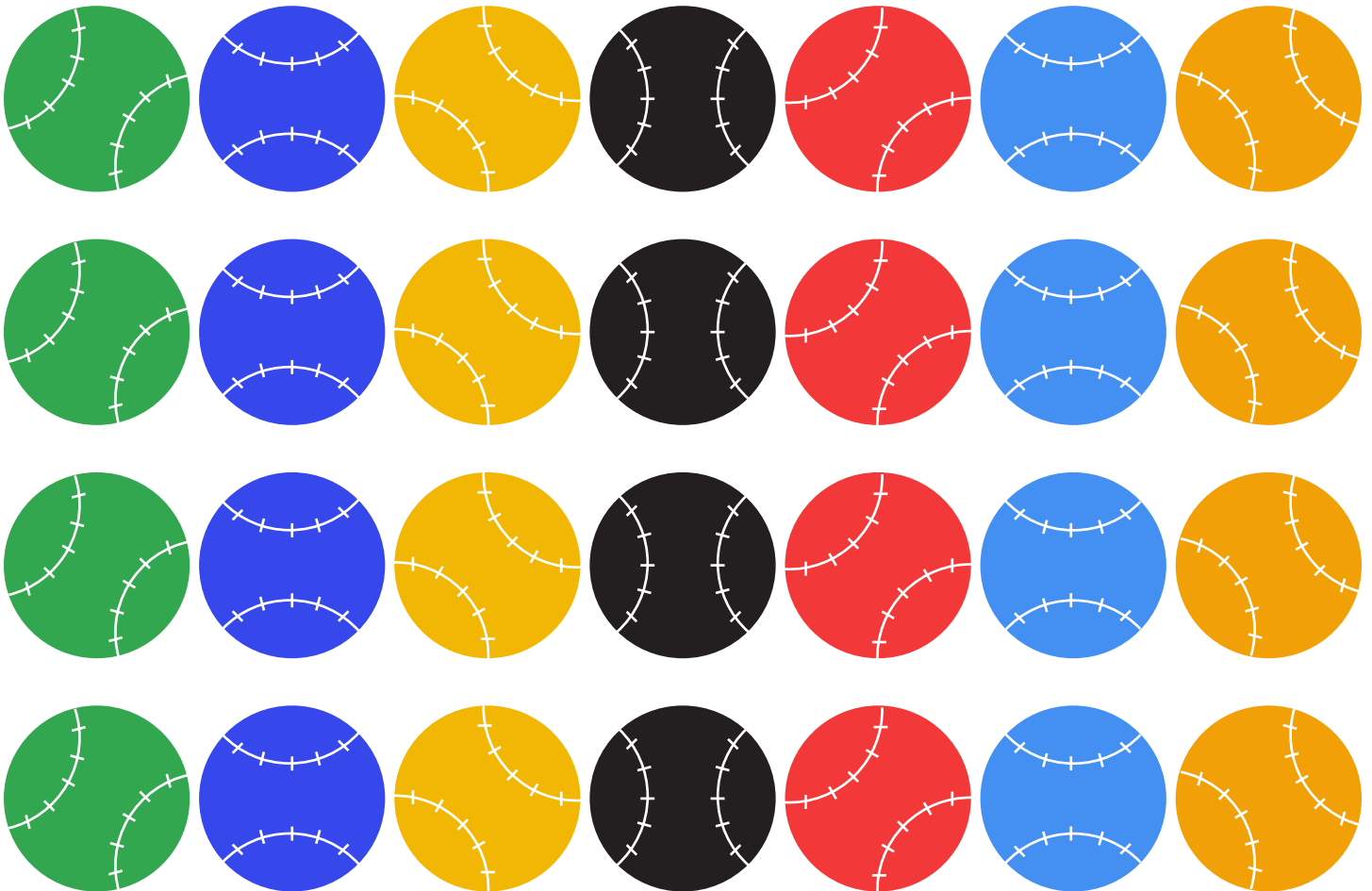


Back TO BASICS

SUMMER 2021





BACK to BASICS

Back to Basics kickoff

In order to improve our skills, sometimes we need to go back to the basics. We need to remind ourselves what "ready position" is. We need to go back to the slow motion of swinging the bat. We need to practice the fundamental of catching and throwing before moving on to more advanced skills.

The same is true of our relationship with Jesus. Understanding the building blocks of the gospel sets a firm foundation to grow in our knowledge of God and his purpose for our lives. This summer we will walk through seven basic truths that will help us solidify our gospel foundation:

1. God made everything, including me
2. God is king of everything, including me
3. God is good and is the greatest treasure in the world
4. I'm born a sinner and need a rescuer
5. Jesus is the rescuer who can bring me to the greatest treasure in the world
6. God gives us the holy spirit who helps us remember and obey what Jesus taught
7. Tell the world that Jesus is the rescuer

To provide you with more resources to learn about these seven basic truths, we partnered with a local church to provide videos, arts and crafts, memory verses, and some questions that you can use with your team or family.

Discussion Questions for Coaches + Parents

Ask the Kids:

- *Who is excited to be playing ball this year? Who is playing ball for the first time this year?*
- *What are some of the things it's important to learn about the game or what are skills we need to get good at before we play a game?*
- **Example answers:** *Which direction to run around the bases, how to catch a ball, how many outs there are in an inning, etc.*
- *What would happen if someone tried to play a game but didn't know these things?*
- **Example answers:** *Might run into someone, go the wrong way, not know what to do, get called out, etc.*

Close with the Question:

- *Does anyone know who Jesus is? What are some things you know about him? What are some of the things Jesus calls us to do?*
- **Example answers:** He was born at Christmas, He loves us, He died for us, etc. Love each other, obey our parents, do what is right, etc.

Share how it's important for us to learn truths about Jesus before we are able to really put his teachings into practice.

Memory Verse

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ." Romans 1:16a

Prayer Time

Pray that this season God will teach us more about Him so that we know Him and follow Him better.

**This curriculum has been adapted from the Basic Truths Series created by the Austin Stone Community Church.*

Additional Resources for Home

More Discussion Questions

- *Can you think of some baseball/softball skills that are important to learn before you play the game? What might happen if you didn't know these things and tried to play?*
- *What are the most important things to know about the Bible and Jesus?*
- *What is one baseball or softball skill you want to get better at this year?*
- *Look at the list of basic truths. What is one that you want to learn more about this season?*

Other Resources

Brief Intro Video:

<https://vimeo.com/406587122/66d5b9e83f>

To View the entire Back to Basics Series

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BACK to BASICS

GOD MADE EVERYTHING

When you play baseball or softball, what is your favorite part? Is it when another player on the other team makes a great play or hits a homerun? No way, right? It's when *your* team does that. And what's even better? When YOU make something great happen. You feel proud when you make a double play or you score a run for your team. When you create something that benefits your team, it feels awesome!

This week, we are going to learn about how God is the ultimate Creator. We might be able to create something that contributes to our team, but **God made everything, including you and me!** And because God is good, we should love and respect everything He has made, including nature, animals, other people, and yourself!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR COACHES + PARENTS

Ask: Do you know what exactly God made?

- **Read** *Genesis 1:1*: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."
- **Share:** Whoa! Isn't this crazy to think about? Everything you see, God made! What is your favorite thing that God made?
- **Read** *Psalms 139:1-2;13*: "O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."
- **Share:** There is only one YOU! God made you special and unique. How does it make you feel that God spent so much special time and energy creating you exactly the way you are?

Ask: If God created everything, including you and me, and did so on purpose, why did he do it?

- **Read** *Genesis 1:26*: "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'"
- **Share:** God created people to reflect His image. Just like a mirror reflects our image back to us, other people can show us things about God. All people are "image bearers" of God and because of that, all people have worth and dignity that can never be taken away. All the differences we see in the people of the world show us all the many beautiful things about of God.

MEMORY VERSE

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." *Genesis 1:1*

PRAYER TIME

Pray for all the special people in your life, that they would know God made them and that He loves them.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR HOME

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did you learn about God?

Talk about how God made everything. Ask questions such as, "What is your favorite animal that God made?" and "What do you think is the most beautiful thing God made?"

What did you learn about yourself and other people?

Ask questions like, "How did God make humans different from anything else in creation?" (God formed us with His own hands.) "How did God make Adam come alive?" (God put His own breath inside of man.)

Since these things are true, how should this change your life?

Ask questions like, "What part of creation can you thank God for this week?" and "Is there something you don't like about yourself? Let's talk to God about it and ask Him to help you believe that He loves you and sees you as amazing and wonderful."

Who can we share this with and how?

Ask something like, "Who is one person that you can tell how special they are because God made them? Would like to write them a letter?"

Video Bible Study:

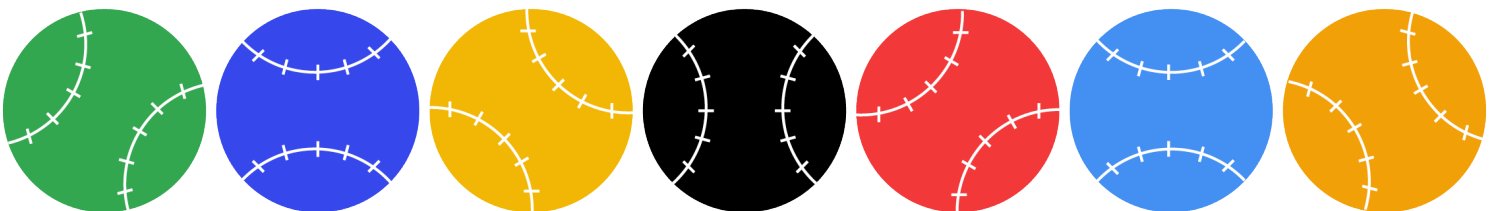
<https://vimeo.com/421651919/51dfa34834>

Daily Crafts and Movement Activities:

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BACK to BASICS

GOD IS KING OF EVERYTHING

We all know that our kids' experience on a baseball or softball team can be affected by its leadership. How the coach leads the team can make or break a season. It's their responsibility to not only teach the sport, but also encourage the kids when they need it and help bring everyone together to actually work as a team. It's important to have a coach who loves the kids, loves the sport, and wants what is best for the team.

Now, we don't have a king in this country, and it may even feel a little silly to think about kings in the modern world, but a king is just the ruler of a nation. If you think about it, the coach is a bit like the king of your team!

This week, we will learn that ***God is king of everything, including you.*** He is the very best king of all. Your coach and even the leader of a country might make mistakes in their leadership, but God never does. So, we want to praise him and tell everyone about our great king!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR COACHES + PARENTS

Ask: *What does it mean to be a king? Think about our country. We don't have a king, but what does it mean to be the president?*

- **Share:** It's the job of the king to lead the country. He is responsible for the well-being of the its citizens.

Ask: *What might happen to a country that has a king or president that doesn't lead well?*

- **Share:** Sometimes countries can make it through a season of bad leadership and be okay. Other times a ruler who doesn't lead well can make an entire country fall apart. There are many stories in the Bible where kings in Israel did such a bad job leading that they were defeated by other nations and the Israelite people suffered.

Ask: *Have you ever played on a team with a bad coach or been on a team with a bad leader?*

- **Share:** Maybe they yelled a lot or never taught you how to throw the ball the right way. It probably made you upset and you might not have liked even playing the game very much that season.

The good news is that no matter who is leading the country, or even your team, ***God is the King of everything, including you,*** and He is good! He can be trusted in every season. When happy things happen, we can thank and praise God! When sad things happen, we know that God can help and will use it for His glory and our good.

MEMORY VERSE

"For kingship belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations." Psalm 22:28

PRAYER TIME

Pray for all the kings and leaders in the world today. You can even pray for your coach. Pray that they would make choices that please God and keep people safe. Pray that everyone would know God is our king and He is worthy to be praised!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR HOME

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did you learn about God?

Talk about how Jesus chose to enter Jerusalem on a donkey. Ask, "Why do you think Jesus didn't choose the nicest horse, or require an entourage of important people to enter with Him?" Talk about how Jesus was humble and caring. And He is alive and coming back again!

What did you learn about yourself and other people?

Talk about how the people praised Jesus for being their king. Ask, "What had Jesus actually come to earth to do? What did He actually come to defeat?" (evil, sin, death) So Jesus was an even greater king than the people realized!

Since these things are true, how should this change your life?

Talk about how Jesus is coming back again as King over all. Ask, "Do you feel ready for Jesus to come back? Why or why not?" Ask "What can you do today to show that Jesus is King of your life?"

Who can we share this with and how?

Pick a friend that you miss SO much! Make them a paper crown saying "God is king of everything, including me!" and mail it to them or deliver it to their doorstep.

Video Bible Study:

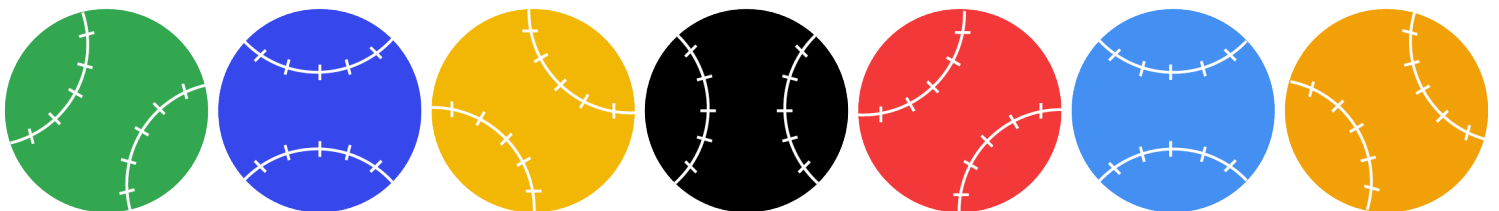
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BACK to BASICS

GOD IS GOOD

When you sign up to play a team sport, most athletes have an end goal in mind: the championship! There's nothing more satisfying than working hard all season long and ending the year as the champion. What a treasure! For professional baseball players, winning the World Series is the ultimate goal. And as a fan, of course that's what you want for your team! Maybe you even have dreams of becoming the champion of your RBI division this year. That would be such an amazing treasure to attain!

As incredible as it would be to win the championship or even the World Series, there's actually something even greater in this world. This week we are going to learn about how ***God is good and is the greatest treasure in all the world.*** He is better than anything our hearts could ever want, even a World Series ring!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR COACHES + PARENTS

Ask: *What is something you think to be a great treasure?*

- **Read** John 12:1-8
- **Share:** In Biblical times, this perfume that Mary poured onto Jesus was very expensive. Why would she give up something so precious for Jesus? Mary realized that Jesus was more precious than any perfume or any other treasure she had, so she gave everything up for him.

Ask: *Have you ever wanted something really bad and thought it would make you so happy, but then when you got it, you were disappointed?*

- **Read** Matthew 6:19-21: *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*
- **Share:** We don't get to keep our earthly treasures forever, but we do get to keep Jesus forever. A relationship with Jesus will not only be your greatest treasure on Earth, but it will last forever, even when everything else fades away.

Sometimes we set our hearts on something and feel like it is the only thing that will make us happy. Maybe it's the championship or a new toy or a new friendship. It's easy to believe that those things will fulfill us. But the truth is that the only thing that can make us truly happy is God. Having a relationship with God through his Son Jesus will make our hearts full forever. Why? Because ***God is good and is the greatest treasure in the world!***

MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all." Psalm 145:8-9

PRAYER TIME

Pray that God would show you His goodness. Pray that God would remind you that He is our greatest treasure!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR HOME

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did you learn about God?

Talk about how God is our greatest treasure. Ask questions such as, "Why was Jesus such a precious treasure to Mary?"

What did you learn about yourself and other people?

Talk about how our heart is where our treasures are. Ask "What is something you have that would make you SO sad if you lost?" That is something you treasure. Having treasures is not bad, but we must never forget to treasure Jesus more than anything else. Jesus is the greatest treasure because He saves us, loves us, and gives us eternal life with Him forever!

Since these things are true, how should this change your life? Ask, "What is one way you can treasure Jesus more this week?"

Who can we share this with and how?

Draw a picture for a friend and include the words, "God is good and is the greatest treasure in the world!" Put your picture inside a ziploc bag (so it doesn't get wet) along with a little gift or piece of candy. Make a treasure map and drop it off on their doorstep. Hide your gift where your treasure map leads so they find your message!

Video Bible Study:

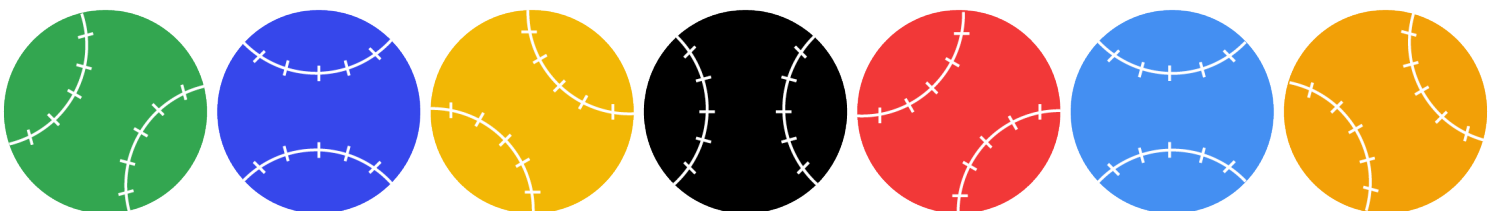
<https://vimeo.com/421660492/ff8b195aca>

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BACK to BASICS

I'M BORN A SINNER AND NEED A RESCUER

Have you ever messed up during a game? Maybe you dropped a pop-fly ball hit right to you. Maybe you tried to steal a base and were thrown out. Maybe you ran the wrong direction around the bases or you struck out. How did it make you feel? Did you wish there was someone else who could come and make it all better? Fix your mistake? Let you do it over?

Now think about messing up beyond sports. Have you ever messed up? Of course, you have! We are all human and **we are born sinners**. We hurt other people, we hurt ourselves, and we hurt God. Think of a time when you really messed up. How did you feel about it?

Even though when we sin we hurt ourselves, other people, and God, the good news is that we have a rescuer in Jesus (we'll learn more about this next week)!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR COACHES + PARENTS

Ask: *Think about a time that you messed up this week. Does anyone want to share? If not, that's ok.*

- **Share:** Share a time when you messed up this week to show the kids that everyone sins.

Ask: *How did you feel after you had sinned?*

- Possible responses: Sad, guilty, frustrated

Ask: *What did you do afterwards?*

- Possible responses: Apologize to someone you hurt, pray to God to ask for forgiveness, try to make it up to the person you hurt

Remind your team that our rescuer is Jesus and we'll learn more about this good news next week. Jesus died on the cross and rose for our sins so that we can be forgiven. He saves us when we make mistakes!

MEMORY VERSE

"But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

PRAYER TIME

Pray together as a family and, if you choose, pray for anyone in your life that does not know Jesus as their rescuer. Do you know anyone who is sick or hurting? Pray for their heart and for their healing, whether that is from doctors or a miracle from God.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR HOME

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did you learn about God?

Talk about how Jesus is God and that is why he has the power to forgive our sins. Ask questions like, "Why do you think Jesus forgave the man's sins before he told him to get up and walk?" (Because Jesus wants us to have eternal life?)

What did you learn about yourself and other people?

Talk about how we are often like that paralyzed man and want God to take care of our physical needs first. Ask, "But what does Jesus care most about?" (our heart) "Does Jesus also care about our physical needs?" (Yes! Just like he healed the paralyzed man, Jesus also takes care of our physical needs too.)

Since these things are true, how should this change your life?

It is important to pray for our hearts as well the things we want or need. Is there anything you want to ask God to help you with that isn't physical? Maybe you're scared of something and need God's help... Or you want to ask for God to forgive you for something you did...

Who can we share this with and how?

Do you know of anyone who doesn't believe in Jesus? Just like Jesus saw the faith of the man's friends and forgave his sins, you too can have faith for those around you that don't know Jesus and God can heal them. Write a letter to them this week telling them that Jesus cares about their heart and is our great rescuer! Or maybe just draw them a picture showing how much God loves them.

Video Bible Study:

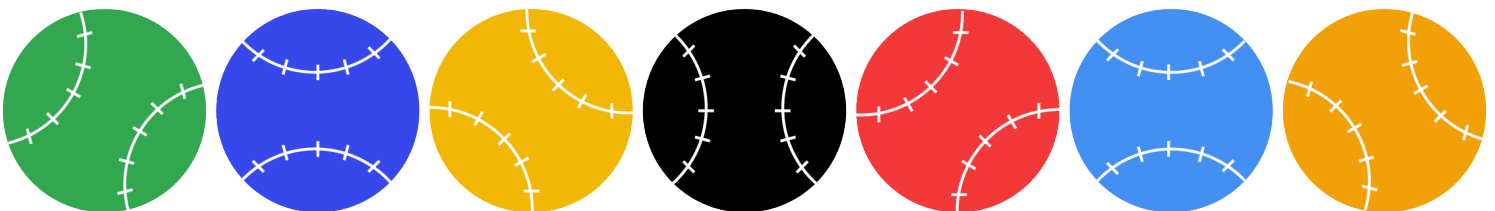
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Daily Crafts and Movement Activities:

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BACK to BASICS

JESUS IS THE RESCUER

What do you think of when you think of a rescuer? Do you think of a fireman saving someone from a burning building? Or a superhero stopping a train from hitting a car that stopped on the tracks with people in it? Maybe you think of a baseball team down to its last out and a star player who hits a home run to win the game.

In our own lives we need rescuing as well from our own sin. There is only one who can save us and that is Jesus! **Jesus is our Rescuer!** When we say I'm sorry and truly repent when we have done wrong, Jesus forgives us and rescues us from the consequences of our sin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR COACHES + PARENTS

Ask: *Have you ever needed to be rescued? What happened?*

- Allow your kids an opportunity to share a time that they needed to be rescued. If no one volunteers, offer up a story from your own life!

Ask: *How did you feel before someone came to rescue you?*

- Possible responses – scared, sad, alone, hopeless

Ask: *How did you feel after you were rescued?*

- Possible responses – relieved, happy, thankful, joyful

Ask: *Is there anything that you need God to rescue you from? How can you be rescued?*

- **Share:** We all sin and need God to rescue us from our sins. The good news is that we just need to confess our sins to God by praying to him and ask him for his forgiveness. He will forgive us and rescue us from our sin!

Remind your team that Jesus died on the cross and rose for our sins so that we can be forgiven. He saves us when we make mistakes!

MEMORY VERSE

"But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

PRAYER TIME

Pray together as a family and, if you choose, pray for some of the things suggested here. Pray for anyone in your life that does not know that Jesus is our rescuer. Do you know of anyone who is sick or hurting? Pray for their heart and for their healing, whether that is from doctors or a miracle from God.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR HOME

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did you learn about God?

Talk about how Jesus is God and that is why he has the power to forgive our sins. Ask questions like, "Why do you think Jesus forgave the man's sins before he told him to get up and walk?" (because Jesus wants us to have eternal life!)

What did you learn about yourself and other people?

Talk about how we are often like that paralyzed man and want God to take care of our physical needs first. Ask, "But what does Jesus care most about?" (our heart) "Does Jesus also care about our physical needs?" (Yes! Just like he healed the paralyzed man, Jesus also takes care of our physical needs too.)

Since these things are true, how should this change your life?

It is important to pray for our hearts as well the things we want or need. Is there anything you want to ask God to help you with that isn't physical? Maybe you're scared of something and need God's help... Or you want to ask for God to forgive you for something you did...

Who can we share this with and how?

Do you know of anyone who doesn't believe in Jesus? Just like Jesus saw the faith of the man's friends and forgave his sins, you too can have faith for those around you that don't know Jesus and God can heal them. Write a letter to them this week telling them that Jesus cares about their heart and is our great rescuer! Or maybe just draw them a picture showing how much God loves them.

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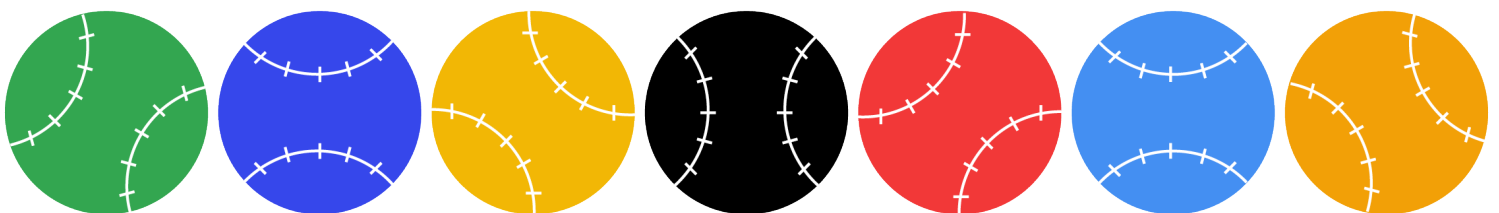
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BACK to BASICS

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Another role of a baseball or softball coach is to remind their players during a game what they've been practicing all season. Sometimes a pitcher might get distracted or get down on themselves if they aren't throwing strikes. All they need is a timeout to chat with their coach, who can remind them to focus and do what they've already been taught to do. Likewise, a player in the outfield might get flustered after they've missed catching a pop fly, but if they hear their coach yell out "hit your cutoff man!", they're reminded to shake it off and do the next right thing.

We all need reminders during the game and living a life following Jesus is no different. Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins, but He also showed us how to live a life that obeys God. We all struggle to obey God perfectly because of our sin. We forget how to do the right thing every time. The Bible teaches us that ***God sent us a helper, called the Holy Spirit, to teach us to remember and obey God.***

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR COACHES + PARENTS

Ask: *How do we receive the Holy Spirit?*

- **Read** Acts 2:1-4, 36-39
- **Share:** We receive the Holy Spirit when we believe that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit helps us to be more like Jesus.

Ask: What does the Holy Spirit do?

- **Read** John 14:26: *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."*
- **Share:** The Holy Spirit teaches us and reminds us of what Jesus said.

Ask: How can we obey God? Is it up to us to live a perfect life on our own? Does God really ask us to do that?

- **Share:** God does ask us to live a perfect life, but He knows that we couldn't do it on our own. That's why He sent His Son Jesus to live a perfect life for us. When we believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we also receive the Holy Spirit, who helps us to live like Him.

MEMORY VERSE

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." John 14:26

PRAYER TIME

Pray together and, if you choose, pray for some of the things suggested here. Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you obey God today. Pray for your community around you (family, friends, teammates, neighbors, etc.)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR HOME

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did you learn about God?

God gave us a helper! The Holy Spirit changes us to look more like Jesus. He reminds us of Jesus' teachings and helps us to obey God.

What did you learn about yourself and other people?

Ask, "What do you think the most exciting part of the Day of Pentecost would have been?" (rushing winds, the tongues of fire, speaking in new languages, 3,000 people being saved in one day, etc.) "Are you ever truly alone if the Holy Spirit is with you?" (No! God promises to never leave us.)

Since these things are true, how should this change your life?

You can ask the Holy Spirit for help anytime! Ask, "Can you think of some times throughout the day when you could ask the Holy Spirit to help you obey?"

Who can we share this with and how?

Try praying for your friends by name before bed this week.

Video Bible Study:

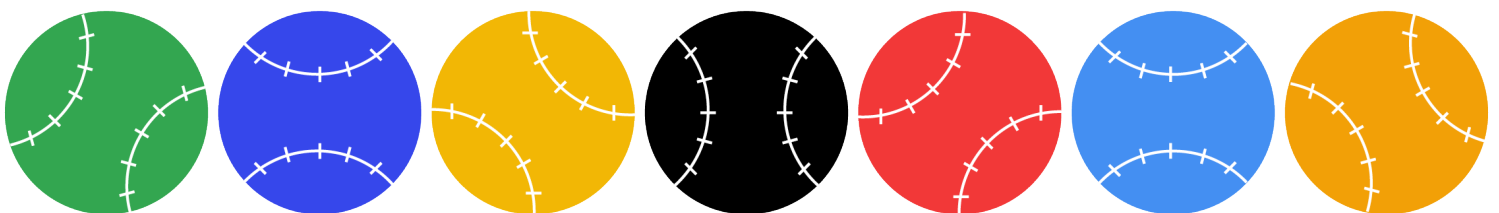
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BACK to BASICS

TELL THE WORLD

What happens when someone loves a particular team? Usually, you know someone is a fan of a certain team because they can't stop talking about it! If you are a Rangers or Astros fan, your friends and family all know because you love to talk about them! Everyone around you probably knows that you know that because you shout it from the rooftops! You want everyone else to know that your team is the best!

Well, we learned that God is greatest treasure in the world and that Jesus is the rescuer, so just like you talk up your favorite team, God calls us to ***tell the world that Jesus is the rescuer!*** Your friends and family might enjoy hearing about how awesome your favorite team is, but their hearts need to hear about how Jesus is the rescuer even more! You know that He has saved you from your sin and invited you into the family of God, so what greater news could you possibly have to share with the people you love?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR COACHES + PARENTS

Ask: *What is your favorite baseball/softball team? Who's your favorite major league player? Why do you like them?*

- **Share:** It probably feels easy to talk about your favorite team or player. It's natural to want to talk about the things we love. Maybe baseball/softball has even changed your life. The same is true of our relationship with God. Once you know the good news that Jesus is the Rescuer, you will want to tell everyone you know so their lives can be changed too!

Ask: *How do we tell people about Jesus?*

- **Read** John 4:1-42
- **Share:** When the woman at the well learned that Jesus is the living water, she was so excited that she told everyone! She didn't have fancy words or a ton of knowledge about the Bible. What she did know was that Jesus had changed her life. So, she went to tell everyone she knew about her own experience with Him. Our own stories are the most powerful!

We don't need to know everything there is to know about Jesus to tell other people about Him. We know that we have been born sinners and need to be rescued. We know that God loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to be our Rescuer. Jesus died on the cross and was raised to life to rescue us. So, let's tell the world!

MEMORY VERSE

"Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the people!" Psalm 96:3

PRAYER TIME

Pray for the strength and courage to tell your world about how Jesus is the rescuer. Pray that God would bring to mind people in your life to share the good news about Jesus. Last week we prayed for our community and our church. This week pray for all of our brothers and sisters across the world who are telling others about Jesus! Pray for all the people in our world who do not yet know about how Jesus is our rescuer.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR HOME

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did you learn about God?

Talk about what Jesus being “the living water” means. (Review how we are created with a thirst inside of us, and that thirst always wants more. Jesus is the only one who can quench that thirst. He is the only one who can give us ALL we ever need, including saving us from our sins.)

What did you learn about yourself and other people?

Ask, “What did the woman do as Jesus was talking to her?” (She listened. She received everything Jesus was telling her.) “What can we do as the Bible is being read to us, or as we read it for ourselves?” (Listen and learn.) In our Bible story video, Ms. Janet challenged us to tell our world about Jesus. Ask, “Who is your world?”

Since these things are true, how should this change your life?

Speaking of listening and learning, talk about one thing you really want to remember from this lesson.

Who can we share this with and how?

Is there someone you want to tell that Jesus is our rescuer? Think of a creative way to do that! (Zoom, letter, draw a picture, phone call, etc.)

Video Bible Study:

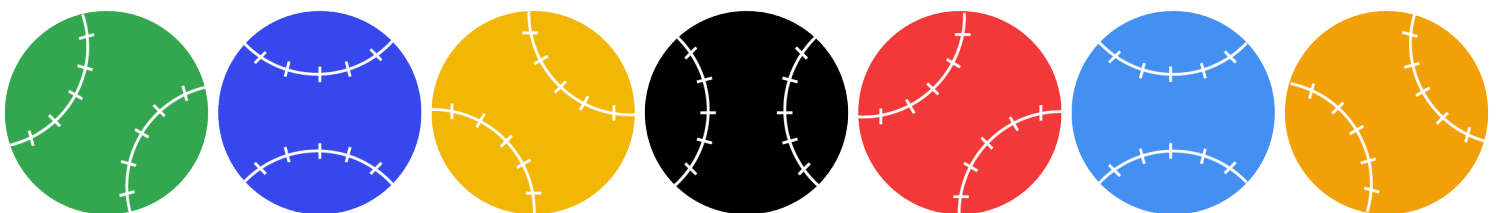
<https://vimeo.com/421683452/5ad29c90c3>

Daily Crafts and Movement Activities:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qDQV4UtuQcRFj6vzfQyt3nSy3kDhQxRxuZW3uXdneg/edit>

TO VIEW THE ENTIRE BACK TO BASICS SERIES

Visit rbiaustin.org/back-to-basics to view handouts from previous weeks. We hope that this content is a blessing to you, your team, your kids, and your family!



**This curriculum has been adapted from the Basic Truths Series created by the Austin Stone Community Church.*