

WELCOME TO ADVENTURE CLUB!

This leader's manual for Trailblazers is designed to be self explanatory; helping to support you as you teach the small group children. The Adventure Club kids are affectionately referred to as the AC kids throughout this book. Your Trailblazers AC kids will embark on an adventure, following Blaze and Amelia as they solve puzzles, work together, and learn lessons along the way. Every five weeks the story will progress and in between the AC kids will be taught sound theology through weekly lessons, scripture memorization and songs.

WEEKS 1–36

Adventure Club is structured to run the course of a school year, starting in the first week of September and ending in May with a break around Christmas and the New Year. Typically, we recommend to take May through August off so that you give your volunteers and parents time to vacation and recoup before the start of another year. However, if you would like to run this program in different intervals or year-round, contact your AC Customer Service Representative to help with coordinating the schedule for this.

REVIEW WEEKS

Every sixth week in Adventure Club is a review week. Review lessons are different than normal lessons because no new content is being taught to the AC kids. In addition, this is the week where the AC kids that have been memorizing their verses can be awarded their unique trading pin. It is important to make sure that all content is understood by the AC kids, and in order to do this, the review week is necessary. We recommend reviewing in a fun way and making the review week the one that



the AC kids look forward to the most! During review week, the AC kids are broken into teams. This is done to accomplish the following:

- Work with others
- Build comradery with their teammates
- Make sure their teammates are coming regularly
- Invite others to join AC to help their team grow
- Listen to the lessons and learn the answers to the questions
- Memorize their verses
- Pray for each other

For a detailed breakdown of the review week, see the Tutorial Lesson portion of this book.

VERSE MEMORIZATION

Hiding God's Word in our hearts is a command in the Bible and a necessary practice to ensure that the AC kids are learning what the Bible is truly about. In Adventure Club, we promote this memorization through choosing Bible verses that are tied to the theological lesson that is being taught each week. We focus on quality and not the quantity of verses. Small group leaders should hold the AC kids accountable to this behavior during small group time. Each week if the AC kids recite their memory verses, the small group leader will track this progress both in the kids' books and their own leader book. During a review week, trading pins are awarded to the AC kids that have successfully memorized all of their verses for the past five weeks.



TRADING PINS

Trading pins are awarded to the AC kids on review weeks if they have successfully memorized and recited their weekly memory verse to their small group leader. The purpose of these pins is to engage the AC kids in the program, teach them hard work, and help them hide God's Word in their hearts. This also doubles as a retention tool for your program. Any fun and engaging aspect will keep the AC kids coming back and wanting to bring their friends, whether in church or outside of



Golden Compass

Welcome the AC kids into Adventure Club with this trading pin.

the church. We encourage the AC kids to trade pins with each other even across age groups. The pins are all tied into the adventure story that the characters go on, found in the kids' books.

GAMES

Games incorporated into your Adventure Club program serve two main purposes:

1. Help the AC kids have fun
2. Deplete energy to help them listen more intently to the lesson

It is important to keep the program fun for the AC kids so they want to come back and look forward to the interactions with others in their groups. In the back of this book is a list of age-appropriate and cost-effective games to include in your program. Please feel free to run whatever games you would like; these are simply suggestions we have seen to be effective in our program.

There are multiple opportunities to use these resources. First, any of these activities can be run in the Check In/Check Out process of the program. We recommend having music playing and some sort of activity running for the AC kids when they show up. This makes for a smoother Check In/Check Out process and helps create a fun atmosphere. Second, the small group times can also include activities, primarily in the form of coloring. One of the resources available to you on our website are coloring pages from the adventure story. These can be used with the younger age groups to keep them busy during any down time.

MUSIC

The back of the book features materials to support your music program. Music is an opportunity to teach your AC kids theologically sound songs to worship God. These songs will stay with them their whole lives, so we do not underestimate the importance of music in this program. Also, this is the last opportunity before the lesson



is taught to deplete their energy, so make the songs fun and engaging for your AC kids! The music that we have chosen is meant to be appropriate for specific age groups and easy for leaders and teachers to run their program. This is why we have included CDs with this book. For additional music resources including chord sheets, lyric sheets, and other materials, please see Additional Resources on our website.

SMALL GROUPS

Small groups are a very important part of the Adventure Club program. All small group leaders should be prepared for this time because they will need to interact with the AC kids on a more personal level. This time is to be used for three primary things:

1. Review the lesson that was taught that week
2. Recite the memory verses with each AC kid
3. Respond together with prayer

Younger age groups may have some additional activities like coloring or snack time, but the three main components should not be lost. Make sure that your small group leaders are equipped and prepared for this special time.

THE LEADER'S ROLE

Your primary role as the leader is to oversee your group of AC kids and lead them in your small group time. Other responsibilities may include:

- Check in and out, or sign up new AC kids
- Facilitate activities
- Transition AC kids through each portion of the program
- Assist AC kids with their needs



HIDING GOD'S WORD IN OUR HEARTS

Psalm 119:10-12a – With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O LORD.

LESSON 1:

THE CHURCH IS MADE UP OF CHRISTIANS

TEXT: MATTHEW 16:13-18; ACTS 2

CENTRAL TRUTH:

THE CHURCH BEGAN AT PENTECOST AND IS MADE UP OF CHRISTIANS ALONE

MEMORY VERSES: **Matthew 16:18** – And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.

John 10:16 – And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

BONUS VERSE:

Acts 2:47b – And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.



LESSON 1 SUMMARY & OBJECTIVES

LESSON SUMMARY

The church is perhaps one of the most misunderstood concepts in the history of mankind. Many people mistakenly think the church is a building or traditional establishment led by a mere man. However, God's Word makes it clear that the church is actually made up of every man, woman, and child who has trusted in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The church has always been solely made up of Christians. It had a definite beginning shortly after Christ returned to Heaven, and it will continue on forever.

OBJECTIVES

1. Clearly identify Jesus as the Messiah and God's Son

2. State Jesus' prophecy about personally building the church

3. Explain why the Spirit was necessary to start the church

4. Discuss what the church looked like and what it did the day it began

5. Provide biblical reasons we know the church started at Pentecost

1. **What happened at Pentecost?**

- a. Peter bought some candy at the store
- b. **The Holy Spirit came to start the church**
- c. Jesus was born
- d. Noah built the ark

2. **Who is the Holy Spirit?**

- a. A ghost
- b. A football player
- c. **God**
- d. A painting

3. **How do you become a part of the church?**

When you become a Christian, you join the church by the Holy Spirit entering your heart.

4. **What happened at Pentecost?**

The Holy Spirit came to live in the hearts of those who believed in Christ.

5. **What is the foundation of the church?**

The Holy Bible because it is God's perfect Word.

6. **What are ways that you can help the church?**

AC kids can list various ways they see others help (music, cleaning, helping people, etc.)

Application:

- Believe that Jesus Christ is the Divine Savior.
- Thank Jesus for personally growing the church and blessing it with the Holy Spirit.
- Consider whether you are truly a part of Christ's church.
- Attend, love, and learn from your local church.
- Work hard to evangelize unbelievers, edify Christians, and exalt God.

 **OIL & WATER:**

The church is a group of people who have been saved through faith in Jesus Christ. The church cannot mix with the world. Attempt to mix cooking oil with water in a clear plastic container. Show your class how, no matter what, the oil and water will separate from each other.

 **SET APART:**

Explain how Israel was set apart in the Old Testament to be God's witness to the Gentiles. Specify that Old Testament Israel and the New Testament church are two different groups of people, yet they are similar in how both have been set apart by the Lord for His purposes.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE GOSPEL

Jesus promised to build His church, drawing people to Himself. Attending church or saying a prayer does not mean a person truly belongs to the church. Instead, they must turn from their sin and trust in Jesus Christ, for the church is made up of Christians.



GATHERED TOGETHER:

Use a magnet with paper clips to show your class how the magnet gathers the paper clips together into small groups. Explain that this is similar to how Christ gathers the church into small local churches around the world.

