



Teacher Book

Overview

School is in session at Robot Academy. Maestro the new bot at school teaches Scrappy about her Primary Program: to have a relationship with the Master Programmer. And not only that, but that the Master Programmer has equipped all bots with apps to help them live as He designed. Over the five days of VBS kids will learn first that God made them to have a relationship with Him, and that when that relationship begins they can start living the lives they were programmed for (by showing kindness, forgiving, serving, and telling others). By presenting the salvation message on day one teachers will have the opportunity to go back to it each following day and offer the children a chance to accept Christ.

Curriculum

Each day's lesson will be split into four parts.

Robot Academy Cartoons

- Teachers begin their class time by playing that day's cartoon.
- The cartoons are in the style of a kids' sitcom. Plots that are simple enough that what is right and wrong will be apparent to even the youngest class, but have an element of excitement and humor that will keep the older kids interested and invested in the characters.
- In addition to the main lessons kids will see examples of traditional bullying as well as cyber bullying and the Christ-like way to handle it.

Bible Stories

- The Bible stories are written in such a way that if you wish to just read them directly to your class you can, though we suggest getting as familiar with them as possible beforehand.

Verses

- All of our verses are included in a VBS song. Music is a great way to help kids who are struggling memorize them more easily.
- Days 2 and 3 share one slightly longer verse.
- All the verse are in the World English Bible version (WEB). Take some time to familiarize yourself with it if you aren't already.

Bot Books

- Older Classes: The workbooks provide simple comprehension questions, then deeper ones that lead to life application. Students may not always be familiar with the terminology used (ie: salvation, sin). Take time to talk with your kids and be sure they understand what is being asked. Then they'll get the most out of the workbooks. You can also find the questions at the end of each of your lessons. In addition, the workbooks include activity sheets and coloring pages.
- Younger classes: Kids will have a blast coloring pictures of their favorite characters and filling in the activity sheets. If you wish to go deeper with your class you can find additional comprehension and life application questions at the end of each lesson.

Extra Time

Every day at VBS is an adventure. There are times when the kids in your class will be full of questions or jumping to get in on discussions. More than likely though, there will be at least one day when you'll have more time than you know what to do with. If you're feeling led to fill the spare time in a particular way, by all means go with your gut, but if you're feeling at a loss here are a few suggestions.

- Review the week's verses: It's the goal that by the end of VBS, every child can not only recite each day's verse, but that they also understand what they are saying. It's when kids understand the verses that they'll be able to hide God's word in their hearts and recall it when needed most.
- Story/life application recap: It's amazing how much kids remember when you think they aren't listening. Asking children to retell the Bible story to you is a great way to get them involved and to make sure they are understanding the point. You can make this more fun by having them act it out. Even more important though, is the life application portion of the story.
- Use your Bot Books: How you go about using your class's workbooks is totally up to you. For some classes working on them as a group is the best way, while other groups are better off when kids have some quiet time on their own. The main purpose of the workbooks (in addition to having fun, time filling questions and activities) is to help kids apply what they learned in the lesson to their daily lives. Help the members of your class figure out what will truly make them remember the things they learned over the course of the week.
- For the younger classes (Preschool – 1st grade): The material provided goes quite a bit more quickly for the younger classes. We suggest you have additional games or activities in mind to fill the time. Here are some things we've found successful: Replaying the Robot Academy Cartoon, practicing motions as you sing the VBS songs, making robots out of playdough or mega-blocks, or even just being silly and pretending to be different types of robots yourselves.

A Few Extra Things

- Kids always start showing up early so plan to arrive at least thirty minutes early the first day and twenty minutes the following four days. Get ready to meet your kids.
- Classroom decorations are always encouraged as they help set the stage for the week. Don't feel like you have to tackle the whole room. If you have a large space section off an area and decorate that. Smaller spaces keep kids involved and help decorations pop.
- Creating a character for yourself is another fun way to reinforce the robot theme. Speak in a robot voice, walk in a robotic fashion, or even paint your face silver and build yourself a robot costume. The more you let go, the more fun you (and your class) will have.
- Decide on a name for your class or area, for example the The Widgets, or The Little Bits.
- Take time to familiarize yourself with the discipline and conduct policies of the church. It's important to be consistent throughout all classes and areas.
- Take every opportunity to get to know the families attending VBS, make them feel welcome, and invite them back the next day and to church.

Final Thoughts

Over the course of the week you will get to know the kids in your class better than anyone else. The most important thing you can do for them is to begin now praying for each child. If children have pre-registered ask your director for a class list so you can pray for your children by name. Ask the Lord to open their hearts to the truths He'd have them learn and show you best how to do that for each one.

Day 1 Teacher's Devotional Reprogramming Our Ideas about: Salvation

When you think about your life, your interests, your family, your career, what would you say you were made to do? Perhaps you're a musician and you feel you were made to play on the worship team. Maybe by nature you're nurturing, patient, and gentle and you're confident you were meant to be a parent. Or have you studied diligently for years, perfecting a skill because you were certain you were made for a particular line of work?

The endless list of abilities, interests, talents, backgrounds, and personality traits a person can possess makes for an infinite number of unique people. As different as we are though, at our cores we were all made for one thing: to have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Think about that for a moment; your primary purpose in life is to know God personally.

All of your interests, talents, and traits aren't your purpose, but rather, God-given tools to make your purpose known to those around you.

During VBS week you'll be sharing the gospel message with kids and teaching them that that message is the means to the life they are programmed for. As great as it is to tell them about Jesus, showing them is even better.

In the days and weeks leading up to VBS pray, asking the Holy Spirit to help you use every aspect of your life as a tool to reflect your relationship with Jesus. Meditate on your strengths and begin right away making sure those are used to display your purpose. Then spend some time examining your weaknesses. When frustrations arise, pause, ask yourself if your purpose is evident in the way you are acting, and if not, run to the Holy Spirit for help in correcting it.

Then when VBS Monday arrives and you tell kids about the lives they are programmed for, not only will they hear about it, but they will see it clearly displayed in you!





Teacher's Notes: *The children in your class may have different levels of exposure to the gospel message. Some are from Christian households and have grown up knowing about Jesus and others may never have heard the gospel message. If you would find it helpful, gauge your class's familiarity with the salvation story before you begin the lesson (try asking students to raise their hand if they know who Jesus is or if they've heard of sin). Remember that while this is the day you will give the salvation message, it's something that can be returned to daily with your students. Remind students that they can pray with you or another adult about salvation during the week. Finally, if you have any children pray with you during the lesson, be sure to follow up with them one on one about their decision for Christ.*

Today at Robot Academy, Maestro told Scrappy all about her primary program and the Master Programmer. Did you know that someone made you? That's right, God made you! The God who made this whole world and everything in it made you. And that's not all, God made you for a special purpose: to get to know Him and live the life you were programmed for.

There is a problem though. God is absolutely perfect and we...aren't. We do wrong things. We tell lies, steal, disobey our parents, and act unkindly. These things are called sin, and sins put space between us and God. God doesn't want us to be apart from Him. He wants us to be close to Him and know Him.

So what can we do about all these sins? Unfortunately there's nothing that you or I can do by ourselves to get rid of our sins and be close to God. Thankfully, God loves us so much that He came up with a plan to take care of sin once and for all: God sent his son Jesus to earth to be born as a baby. Jesus grew up and the whole time he was on Earth he didn't sin. He didn't do a single wrong thing. He was perfect, just like his father God. Then, when Jesus was grown up, he died on a cross. Jesus did that so he could take the punishment for every sin that anyone had ever done or could do. The story doesn't end there though, after three days, Jesus came back to life!

Wow! What an incredible plan! God did all that just to take care of your sins! Isn't that amazing? The only thing you have to do is accept this awesome gift! If you believe what Jesus did for us and ask God for forgiveness, He will give it to you! And that's not all. If your sins are forgiven, then you can be close to God again! You can get to know Him and learn all about the things he has planned for you: the life you were programmed for. And the very best part is that someday you'll get to live with God and Jesus forever in heaven! Doesn't that sound amazing? Would you like to accept this awesome gift now? If you would then repeat after me:

Dear God, I know every day I do things that are wrong. I want to say I'm sorry for my sins. Thank you for sending your son Jesus to take the punishment for the wrong things I do and thank you for bringing him back to life. Please help me to know you more and live the life I was programmed for! Amen!

I'm so glad we could take the time to pray that prayer together! Accepting God's gift of forgiveness is the most important decision you can ever make! But accepting that gift isn't the end of journey, it's only the beginning. All this week we're going to learn about God and the life He programmed us for.

Questions

Q1: What are sins?

Q2: Why do sins put space between us and God?

Q3: How did Jesus pay the price for our sins?

Q4: What do we have to do to accept God's gift of forgiveness?

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you so much for sending your son Jesus to die for our sins. We pray that if anyone here hasn't accepted your gift of forgiveness that they can do that this week. Amen!

Day 2 Teacher's Devotional

Reprogramming Our Ideas about: Kindness

True kindness is not something we regularly see practiced out in the real world. Our society tends to set the bar quite low; if someone is nice to me, I'll be nice to them. Anyone who follows that rule is generally considered to be a good person.

As Christians it's difficult to break out of that mindset, mostly because we're so often basing our kind actions on the future - things we hope will happen.

"If I stay calm when my boss is yelling, he'll be taken back by my response and settle down."

Or, "If I can just be patient with the rambunctious kids during VBS, they'll have fun and want to come back, then they'll get saved."

While these are certainly good things to desire, by basing our actions on what we hope will happen, we often end up feeling slighted, disappointed, and lose motivation for the next time.

"I tried for weeks to get to know the new woman who sits behind me, and she still doesn't even know my name."

"We helped that family more times than I can count, and they left the church anyway."

Thankfully, we have an example in our Savior as to what true kindness should look like. He loved and accepted the hated Zacchaeus. He invited sinners to eat with Him. And when Jesus saw ten lepers He healed them all, knowing full well ninety percent wouldn't even thank Him. While His kind actions did have many positive results that wasn't always the case, but He never let the end result dictate His behavior. Never was this truer than at the cross. His pain, His spilled blood, His broken body, and His death weren't endured for a group of people who would fully appreciate every bit of it, and would in turn live completely transformed lives. No, all of that was endured for people like us who, can't even seem to be kind to others.

So, as you prepare for, and go through VBS week, pray that the Lord will use your kind actions for a better future, but ask Him to help you find your motivation for kindness in the fact that He first was kind to you. Reprogram your thinking and base your kindness on the past, not the future, because He did it perfectly.



Day 2 Lesson: Programmed for Kindness

Bible Story: Jesus is kind to Zacchaeus - Luke 19:1-10

Memory Verse: "And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God also in Christ forgave you." - Ephesians 4:32a

Teacher Notes: For kids (and adults alike) not being mean is often synonymous with being kind. We want children to understand God calls us to something greater. True kindness requires that we act in love even when it's difficult. Help your kids understand this by commending them throughout the week as you see them treating others with the type of kindness Christ modeled for us.

You'll notice Zacchaeus's transformation isn't mentioned until the end in the bracketed section. While showing God's love through kindness does have incredible transformative power, God doesn't guarantee us that people will change. If you feel your class would benefit from hearing it or if they are asking what happened to Zacchaeus feel free to include the closing paragraph. Otherwise, omit the bracketed section to help kids focus on being kind even under difficult circumstances.

Today at the Robot Academy Scrappy opened her Kindness App and treated B.R.U.T.E with kindness even though he had always been mean to her in the past. Do you think that was the right thing to do? In real life, when a person is mean to everyone around them, what do you think God expects you to do? Listen to this Bible story about Jesus to find out how He treated others.

Back in Bible-times there were men who had the job of being tax collectors. That meant that the people would go to these men to pay money they owed to the government. People hated the tax collectors because when the time came to collect the money, the tax collectors would charge them way more and keep the extra for themselves. There was nothing the people could do about it. How do you think you would feel if someone was stealing your money that way?

A short little man named Zacchaeus was one of these tax collectors. In fact, he was the head tax collector and he was very rich, which probably meant he stole a lot of money from a lot of people. People did NOT like Zacchaeus.

One day Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to his town and decided he wanted to see Him. A large crowd was forming in the streets. Because Zacchaeus was so small he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed up into a tree so he could watch Jesus.

When Jesus reached the spot where Zacchaeus was waiting He stopped, looked up, and called, "Zacchaeus, come down. I must stay at your house today."

When Zacchaeus heard this he hopped right out of the tree and welcomed Jesus gladly.

But while Zacchaeus was glad, the rest of the people were not!

"Why is He going to stay with that sinner?!" They wanted to know.

They couldn't figure out why Jesus would be kind to a person who had been so terrible to everyone else. They didn't understand that Jesus loved Zacchaeus and wanted a relationship with him.

Our verse today reminds us that God wants us to be kind, tender hearted and forgiving of other people because that's how Jesus treated us. Sometimes there are people that seem really bad to us. Maybe they are bullies. Maybe they steal things. Maybe they say bad words or maybe they just kind of annoy us. But God wants us to act like Jesus did and be kind to everyone, even those people who don't seem to deserve it. When we are kind to others we are letting them know that God loves them.

The Bible tells us that when we accept God's gift of salvation He gives us the ability to live like Jesus wants us to. When you have Jesus in your life you are programmed to be kind.

[When Jesus showed Zacchaeus kindness it changed Zacchaeus forever. He wanted a relationship with Jesus right then and there. In fact, Zacchaeus's life began changing right away and he started being kind to others. He promised to give away half of all of his money and to pay back anything he stole with four times the amount! Even Zacchaeus had been programmed for kindness.]

Questions

Q1: Why didn't people like Zacchaeus?

Q2: Why was Jesus kind to Zacchaeus?

Q3: When is it hard for you to be kind?

Q4: What is a way you can be kind to someone who doesn't seem to deserve it?

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for this excellent day together. Help us to always live the life you programmed us for, especially by being kind to others. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Day 3 Teacher's Devotional Reprogramming Our Ideas about: Forgiveness

Almost everyone, from children to adults, knows that we should forgive others. We learn from a young age if someone says, "I'm sorry," that we're supposed to accept their apology. The confusion comes for many when there is no apology. Why should we forgive someone who isn't sorry?

Our culture has a very specific view of this kind of forgiveness: forgiveness is a gift we give ourselves. We've all heard the axioms about letting others rent space in our heads for free. The world tells us that if we're going to forgive someone who isn't sorry it should be because it makes us feel better. While this approach can be a motivator for some people, this is not how God wants us to approach forgiveness.

God wants our motivation for forgiveness to be the same as our motivation for everything else: to be more like Him. God sending His dearly loved son Jesus to die for undeserving, unapologetic people is the perfect model of forgiveness. God didn't wait for the world to issue a collective apology for its sins to offer us His forgiveness, and we shouldn't wait for an apology to offer ours.

Forgiveness is difficult. There's no way around it. Spend time this week reflecting on the magnitude of God's forgiveness toward us and the sacrifices made by the trinity to ensure that forgiveness. Pray that the Holy Spirit can work in you so that you hold this perfect picture in your mind. If you have people in your life you know you need to forgive, make a list and turn it over to God in prayer. Remember this: the God who could forgive everything can help you forgive anything.



Day 3 Lesson: Programmed for Forgiveness

Bible Story: Parable of the servant being forgiven his debt and Peter learns about forgiveness. - Matthew 18:21-35

Memory Verse: "And be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving each other, just as God also in Christ forgave you." - Ephesians 4:32a

Teacher Notes: *Children can struggle with understanding the perspective God wants us to have on forgiveness. Sins against them feel very large, while those they commit seem very small. The focus of this lesson is trying to help them understand the vastness of God's forgiveness and use that to drive their own forgiving spirit. Look for chances during the day and the week to model forgiveness and to point out opportunities for the kids to practice it.*

Today at Robot Academy, Scrappy learned that forgiving others (especially those who aren't sorry) isn't very easy. Thankfully, the Master Programmer wrote an app to help bots like Scrappy forgive others. Did you know that God wants us to forgive the people when they do things that hurt us? It's true! Let's hear a story Jesus told about forgiveness.

One day, one of Jesus's followers, Peter, asked Jesus how many times he should forgive someone who did something bad to him. Peter thought that it was very generous to forgive someone seven times. He was probably surprised when Jesus said that he should forgive someone not just seven times, but many, many more times than that. To help Peter understand, Jesus told this story:

There was a servant who worked for a king. The servant owed the king a lot of money: 10,000 bags of gold! When it was time for the servant to pay back the gold he had borrowed, he couldn't pay! The king decided to sell the servant and his whole family to repay all the gold.

The servant was so upset! He got down on his knees and begged the king to change his mind. He asked the king for more time and promised that he would pay back all the gold he had borrowed. The king felt sorry for the servant. He decided that the servant didn't need to pay him back any money and let him go. Wow! How do you think the servant felt when he found out that not only was his family not going to be sold, but that he didn't have to pay back the gold?

As the servant was leaving, he met one of his fellow servants. This man owed the first servant a little bit of money (much, much less than the servant had owed the king). The servant grabbed the man and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he shouted.

The man couldn't pay back the money. He got on his knees and begged the servant for more time. He promised that he would pay back all the money he had borrowed. What do you think the servant did?

Well, the servant did not feel bad for the other servant. He refused to give the man more time to pay back the money. Instead, he had the man arrested and thrown in jail! When the king's other servants saw this they became angry! They went to the king and told him everything that happened.

When the king heard what happened he became very angry. He called his servant in. "You bad servant!" he said, "I told you that you didn't have to repay the money you owed me because you begged

me! You should have had mercy on the other man just like I had on you!” Then because he was so angry, the king had his servant thrown in jail until he could pay back the 10,000 bags of gold!

Jesus told Peter this story to show how we should act. We’re like the servant in the story and God is like the king. Every time we do something wrong like tell a lie, act unkindly, or disobey our parents, we sin. All those little sins we do add up, just like the 10,000 bags of gold the servant borrowed. There’s nothing we can do to make up for all those sins. We need God to forgive our sins just like the king forgave the servant’s debt. And just like we learned earlier this week, God does! Not because we deserve to have our sins forgiven, but because He loves us, so He sent Jesus to pay for our sins.

When someone does something wrong to us it’s like the man who owed the servant a little bit of money. God wants us to forgive the other person. It’s not always easy, but remembering what Jesus did for us so that our sins could be forgiven can help you remember: when you have Jesus in your life, you are programmed to forgive others!

Questions

Q1: How many times did Peter think he should forgive someone?

Q2: Why was the king angry with the servant?

Q3: Why is it sometimes hard for you to forgive others?

Q4: Why is it important for us to forgive others?

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you so much for sending your son Jesus to die for our sins. Please help us to live the life you programmed us for and to forgive others! In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Day 4 Teacher's Devotional

Reprogramming Our Ideas about: Service

What do you imagine when you think of serving others? Do you picture someone pulling over to the side of the road to offer a ride to someone whose car has broken down? Perhaps you think of someone volunteering at a local soup kitchen. Or maybe it's a person assisting an elderly member of their congregation with tasks she can no longer perform.

These are all excellent examples of service: helping people we don't know or those we love. This kind of service is pleasing to God. God calls all of us to perform acts like these every day. But this isn't the only kind of service God calls us to. God also calls us to go beyond helping those we love, those we know, and those in the body of believers. He even calls us to go beyond helping those who are strangers to us. God calls us to serve our enemies.

Our enemies? No way! God doesn't want us serving people who are our enemies! Those people are mean! Those people are terrible sinners! Those people denigrate Christians and God! Those people don't deserve our help! There's no way God would want us serving *those* people...right?

Wrong! Jesus was very mindful in his choice of a Samaritan in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jews and Samaritans hated each other. The idea of associating with a Samaritan would have been shocking to a member of the Jewish community in those days. The idea of considering a Samaritan a neighbor? Unthinkable.

Not much has changed. Despite popular secular messages of tolerance, there is a cultural undercurrent that still pushes us to hate our enemies. We are encouraged to view many different people as enemies: those with different political views, members of different religions or atheists, etc. We hear messages to hate a hundred times a day in a hundred different ways, but it's important to remember that those messages aren't coming from God. In the bible, Jesus was challenging people to change their mindset about love and service, and He's still calling Christians to do that today (see Matthew 5:43-48).

Spend time identifying the people you may view as your enemies. At first, you might not come up with anyone. If that's the case, spend time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to those you've hardened your heart to. Then look at ways you can show God's love through service to those people. Continue to pray for God to give you a heart for those you would be inclined to hate. It won't be comfortable, but it will help you reprogram your ideas about service.



Day 4 Lesson: Programmed for Service

Bible Story: The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

Memory Verse: "But don't forget to be doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." - Hebrews 13:16

Teacher's Notes: *The idea of service is something not all kids are exposed to. Or, if they are exposed to it, they've never heard it described as service. If your class seems like they're struggling with the concept, try brainstorming different service ideas together. You can try prompting them with problems kids their age might face (e.g. a classmate forgot his or her lunch) and allow them to come up with solutions they can provide.*

Today at Robot Academy Scrappy turned on her Service App by going out of her way to help B.R.U.T.E with his test. Do you think that was the right thing to do? In real life, who are the people you think God expects us to help? Listen to this Bible story about Jesus to find out!

One day, a man came to Jesus asking about how he should live this life. The man knew from God's law that he was supposed to love God and other people. But this man wanted Jesus to explain who he needed to love. The man didn't think he was supposed to love all people. He wanted Jesus to tell him that he only had to love certain people. Maybe people who were just like him, or who he thought deserved to be loved. To explain, Jesus told him this story:

A man was traveling on a road between two cities. In those days, most people had to walk when they traveled. It took a long time and it could be dangerous! While the man was traveling, he was attacked by robbers. The robbers beat him up and took everything he had, even his clothes! They left him on the side of road. The poor man! He was so hurt he couldn't continue his journey or get help.

As the man was lying on the side of the road, a priest walked past him. A priest was a leader in the man's church who knew all about God's law. The priest saw the man. He knew the man was hurt and needed help, but instead of stopping, the priest walked to the other side of the road and left the poor man there!

Later, a Levite came by. Just like the priest, a Levite had a special role in the man's church and knew all about God's law. The Levite saw the man. He could see the man was badly hurt and needed help. But just like the priest, the Levite walked to the other side of the road and left the poor man there.

Finally a Samaritan came passed the man. In Jesus's time, people did not like Samaritans at all! In fact, the man who was hurt probably didn't like Samaritans either. The Samaritan knew this. He knew this man wouldn't like him or want to be his friend. The Samaritan also probably knew that if he was the one lying hurt on this road, this man would not help him. What do you think the Samaritan would do? What would do if you were him?

Well, the Samaritan saw the man lying there and felt very bad for him. He knew this man needed help very badly, and even though he knew this man didn't like him, he stopped to help. The Samaritan bandaged the man's wound. Then, he put the man on his own donkey and walked him to an inn. The Samaritan paid the inn keeper a lot of money to take care of the man until he was better. He

even promised to come back and give the innkeeper more money if the cost of the man's care was more than he had paid! Wow!

After he finished telling this story, Jesus asked who had shown love to this man by helping him when he was hurt? The man answered that it was the Samaritan. Jesus told the man that he should act like the Samaritan.

Jesus wanted this man and everyone to know that we should always help others – even people who don't like us or treat us well. That was probably really hard for people to hear. Sometimes it's hard for us to hear, but the Bible tells us that when we accept God's gift of salvation He gives us the ability to live like Jesus wants us to. When you have Jesus in your life you are programmed to help others.

Questions

Q1: Who are some of the people who didn't help the hurt man?

Q2: Who did stop to help the hurt man?

Q3: What makes it hard to serve people who aren't kind to us?

Q4: Who is someone you can serve this week?

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you so much for this lesson from the Bible. Help us to always help others the way you want us to. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Day 5 Teacher's Devotional Reprogramming Our Ideas about: Evangelism

When you're sharing your faith with someone, the joy of eternity in Heaven is a great motivator... for approximately three seconds. After that, our thoughts of glorified bodies, perfect union with other believers, and everlasting life with our Savior, quickly become replaced with things of this world: "What if I'm making him uncomfortable?", "What if she thinks I'm a goody-goody?"

By default, the things that consume our attention will be the things that drive us, and since we are living in the here and now, rarely do our minds focus on something that seems as immaterial, and distant as eternity. But as much as we may feel part of this world, God says differently. Continually through His word we are referred to as "temporary residents, and foreigners." With the assistance of the Holy Spirit that is exactly how we can begin to view ourselves when we ask Him to help us see things of this world as reminders of the promises of what's to come.

The next time you're in awe of a beautiful sunset thank the Lord that there is a whole spiritual world He has created that someday you'll get to experience.

When you successfully complete a project with someone else, think of the unity you will share with all believers one day.

As you sit back, fulfilled, after enjoying a delicious meal meditate on the complete satisfaction you will find in your relationship with Christ, forever.

As you lead up to VBS week begin applying this practice to your own life and watch as your joy in eternity increases. Then when you share your faith with the kids of your class that joy will radiate from you.

While it may take some time to reprogram our thinking, Heaven and eternity with Christ can become our reality and therefor a much more real motivation for sharing the gospel.



Day 5 Lesson: Programmed to Share the Gospel

Bible Story: Paul shares the gospel fearlessly - Acts 9-28

Memory Verse: "For I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ, for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes..." - Romans 1:16a

Teacher Notes: As your kids leave your classroom for the last time, spend a few moments letting them know how much you've enjoyed getting to know them. Tell them how much it has meant to you to share the gospel message with them and that you hope and pray they live the lives they were programmed for and tell others how to do the same.

Today at the Robot Academy Scrappy told B.R.U.T.E about the Master Programmer. When he didn't seem interested Scrappy felt discouraged. Thankfully Maestro helped her understand it was still the right thing to do and encouraged her to keep telling others. Would you like to hear a story about a real person who told a lot of people good news even though it was very hard? I'll tell it to you.

A little while after Jesus rose from the dead and went back up to Heaven, a man named Paul became a Christian. Because he loved God so much he went from city to city telling people all about the gift of salvation. He told them Jesus is God's son, and that He died on the cross so that people could be forgiven for the wrong things they do.

As Paul spoke, some of the people who heard were filled with joy and believed, but other people didn't. In fact it made them angry. Very angry. In one of the first cities that Paul visited some of those people made a plan to kill him. Thankfully Paul heard about their plan and his friends helped him escape by lowering him in a basket from an opening in the tall city wall.

Now, a lot of people would probably be pretty scared, or feel bad about people not liking them, but not Paul. That wouldn't stop him from telling more people about salvation. He went to another city and at first the same thing happened; the people listened. Some of them were glad to hear the news about Jesus, but others got mad. This time the mad crowd kicked him out of the city. How do you think you'd feel if that happened to you?

In the next town Paul met a man who couldn't walk. Through the power of Jesus Paul healed the man and he jumped up! The people were amazed! But they didn't stay that way. Men from the last place Paul visited came and stirred up trouble. They got the new town to hate Paul too. Only this time they didn't just throw him out. They wanted to kill him, so the crowd picked up rocks and threw them at Paul over and over until they thought he was dead, then they dragged him out of the city. Paul's friends gathered around him and he stood up! The next day he left for a new place to tell even more people about Jesus.

This happened to Paul over and over. He would tell people about a relationship with Jesus, some of them would believe and some would get angry. Over the rest of his life Paul was arrested, thrown in jail, put on trial, and beaten, but through it all he continued to do what God wanted and tell people the good news.

Even though he was in some very scary situations, and a lot of people didn't like him, Paul shared the gospel fearlessly and without being embarrassed. He was proud to tell others about Jesus. The Bible says he taught people about the Lord Jesus Christ with boldness and that because of him, every day the churches were strengthened and grew in numbers. He made a huge difference. But Paul, isn't the only one who can tell people about Jesus. You can too! In fact our verse today reminds us that we should not be ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God to save people.

The Bible tells us that when we accept God's gift of salvation He gives us the ability to live like Jesus wants us to. When you have Jesus in your life you are programmed to tell others about Him, just like Paul.

Questions

Q1: Why did Paul travel from city to city?

Q2: What are some good and bad things that happened to him?

Q3: What stops you from telling other people about Jesus?

Q4: Who is someone you can share the gospel with?

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for this awesome week together. Help us to always live the life you programmed us for, especially in telling other people about you. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.