

# Stewardship

A 4 week unit that focuses on being good managers of our stuff, our time and the earth.

# *The Set Up for Expedition Kids!*

Did you know that every one of us is on an expedition? We are! God has each one of us on a journey that can bring glory to Him and purpose for us. And like any expedition, we need the right tools to be successful.

Kids are no different. With Expedition Kids! curriculum, children can come and get equipped to go out and be successful in the expedition God has for them. They need to have the tools of prayer, reading God's Word, knowing who they are in Christ and that God has a purpose and a plan for them.

Our goal is to provide quality curriculum for churches that is affordable, full of energy & fun, while retaining the spiritual depth to make an eternal impact. We want kids to want to come to your church, to hear about how awesome God is, and to want Him in their lives!

***Expedition Kids!*** offers churches a quality kids' church curriculum that is effective, affordable and easy to use – especially smaller churches. It's aimed at children from 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades and employs a large-group/small-group teaching format. It is fun and sometimes a little crazy, with the room's environment changing to reinforce and reflect the current unit's theme. It is a great help to smaller churches and church plants that currently may not have a large budget, technological resources or volunteer pool.

You're going to have to be willing to cook up several giant pots of slime, put down some tarps in your kids' church room, and catapult eggs. Most activities and games reinforce the lesson point, but sometimes we do something just because it's fun. There are weeks that the curriculum calls for movie or game weeks. This is a time to kick back and enjoy being with your kids – and let them build relationships with each other! These weeks also make the curriculum flexible so it fits into your calendar. While they are having fun, kids will be learning about prayer, how to read their Bible, how to pray for others, and what it's like when God speaks to us.

***Expedition Kids!*** helps get people involved. You don't have to teach if that's not your gifting: there's a place for everyone to pitch in and begin the expedition! Places to serve include: small group leaders for those with pastoral gifting, teachers for those comfortable speaking and entertaining, carpentry opportunities to build games, artistic opportunities with decorating and even a skit or two for those dramatic types!

There are several special items you will need to make as you progress through the curriculum (potato launchers, egg-a-pults, Plinko game, etc.). While these

take some time to make, they will be used again either later in the unit or in another unit.

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Expedition Kids! is easy. Simply print it out from the curriculum CD, write the dates you plan to teach the lessons on the Table of Contents page and make copies. You can also edit and print so it's ready to go! Another option is to email it and let the volunteers print out the weeks they need.

### Expedition Kids! Format:

This curriculum plans for an hour and a half, with a 10 – 15 minute worship time. If your service goes longer, simply stretch out the small group or worship time.

**Welcome** – This is a time to make announcements, welcome guests, celebrate birthdays, etc.

**Worship** – Don't have a worship leader? Consider ordering some DVD's from God's Kids Worship company ([www.godskidsworship.com](http://www.godskidsworship.com)), Group Publishing ([www.group.com](http://www.group.com)), or use previous VBS worship DVD's.

**Small Group Trek Team Debriefing** – This is a time for kids to gather in small groups to discuss their week, review last week's lesson and see how it applied to their lives. It's a chance to "debrief" from their expedition of the past week. The leaders of these groups are called Trek Team Guides. It is recommended to keep the same groups each week so that relationships can be formed among the children and leaders.

**Trailbreaking** – This is the large-group teaching time. You can have someone double up as the teacher and a small group leader if you're short on volunteers.

**Memory verse** – *Expedition Kids!* uses the same verse for a month at a time and uses motions to help kids remember.

**Small Group Trek Team Gear Up** – This is a time for kids to return to their small groups to discuss the lesson, get "geared up" for the week, and have prayer/ministry time.

### Fun Elements You Can Incorporate:

- If you don't already have one, come up with a fun name for your kids' church. Ours is called "Base Camp" because every 3 or 4 months we

pack up and move our base camp to a new location to learn about something new. This is when we completely redecorate the room and keep it a surprise from the kids until they walk in the door. We may go underwater to learn about how immeasurable God's love is, we may go into a cave to dig for treasures represented by answers to our questions, or we may join in with a Mexican fiesta to celebrate the salvation that is available through Jesus!

- Have a Trading Post where kids can spend Bible Bucks on trinkets & toys

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([www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com) is a great place to find inexpensive treasures!). We usually have ours the last Sunday of each month at the end of class time. Kids can earn Bible Bucks throughout the month for knowing the memory verse, making good choices during class, bringing their Bible, bringing a friend and just being there!

- Decorate the room if you can. Use butcher paper from teacher supply stores, an overhead to copy a scene onto drop cloths, or just decorate the stage. We offer some ideas, so make it as elaborate or simple as you wish. Also, several of the units follow after the theme from some VBS's so you may have some of these decorations already.
- Not an artist? There's help! Use Microsoft Office Online for clipart & decorating pictures for backdrops or animals. Print or copy them onto a transparency and then shine them onto paper or fabric. Trace, and voila! Professional looking artwork using less-than professional level talent!

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This is a brief unit where children will participate in a service project called Operation Christmas Child with Samaritan's Purse that ties into the holiday season.

There are no decoration ideas given since this unit doesn't have a theme. The current environment can remain until after this unit is over.

# What is a Steward?

## **Supplies:**

- Handout explaining our outreach service project: Operation Christmas Child by Samaritan's Purse
- Bag of cookies with enough for one per child
- Bag of M&M's per TT
- A dime per child
- "Joseph: King of Dreams" movie

## **Kids Will:**

- Learn that a steward is a manager who takes care of someone else's stuff – namely God's stuff! We are to be good managers over everything that God has given us.

**Scripture:** Story of Joseph as a steward in Potiphar's house, then Joseph's own stewards from Genesis 39: 1 – 4, Genesis 43:16, 17, 24.

**Memory Verse:** "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

## **Welcome kids as they arrive**

Have fun music playing! Everyone should be ready to focus on and welcome kids at this time.

## **Orientation Welcome**

Welcome! Over the next several weeks we are learning about stewardship, which means God wants us to be grateful and take good care of the things He has given us – to be good stewards!

Celebrate any birthdays, welcome guests & give announcements.

**15 minutes Worship**

### **10 minutes Trek Teams Debriefing**

Talk with kids about their weeks. How is everyone today?

Look up Ephesians 2:10: “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” NLT

Ask kids: According to the scripture we just heard, what did God create us for? When we have Jesus in our hearts – when we belong to God – the Bible says that God has planned for us to do good things. Can we do these good things if:

- We lay on the couch and watch TV all the time? No!
- We only think of ourselves and what we want? No!
- We know the things that God wants us to do and we do them? Yes!
- We use the things that God has given us (our time, money, energy, talents...) to make God happy? Yes!

There is a word for using our time, money, energy and talents in ways that please God and it is called stewardship. God has created us to be stewards. A steward is a manager for someone who is in authority. In our case, God is in authority over us, and we are managers over all that he has given us – we are supposed to take good care of His stuff! That’s what we’ll be learning about this month.

### **30 minutes Trailbreaking**

We are going to be learning about something that is very important – and will help you to have a good life and make God happy! It is called stewardship. What do you think stewardship is?

*Cookie Steward* – I have a bag of cookies. These are my cookies – they belong to me – but I would like to share them with you. I am going to make (volunteer) the steward over my cookies and I’m going to ask him/her to give out the cookies. Now, let’s say that (volunteer) decides that (their best friend) should have all the cookies – or only kids that (volunteer) likes should have cookies. Is that being a good steward of my cookies? Would (volunteer) be doing what I wanted with the cookies? No! A steward is a manager for someone who is in authority. What choices would (volunteer) have to make to be a good steward of my cookies? (be fair, be honest, pass them out quickly!)

What kind of person – or what kind of choices – makes a good steward? (honest, fair, disciplined, hard worker, knows the person in authority well)

Let’s look at someone in the Bible who became a steward and then did such a good job that he eventually had stewards of his own to help him. Everybody find Genesis 39:1 – 4. You guys may be familiar with the story of Joseph, let me catch you up if you aren’t. (explain how Joseph got there then read the

Scripture) What are some of the things you think Joseph did as a manager of Potiphar's household? (there is a clip in "Joseph, King of Dreams" where Joseph has been bought as a slave, then because of his good work cleaning the courtyard is promoted to an indoor slave. It shows Joseph doing a good job with Potiphar's belongings. Also, there is a cool clip where Joseph is put in prison and he cares for a growing tree. You would need to stress that it's not in the Bible, but it shows how Joseph chose to have faith in God and trust Him no matter what happened – he continued to be a good steward over what was given to him)

Now let's read about when Joseph became so successful that he had his own stewards and see what they did. Read Genesis 43:16, 17, 24. What were some of the things that Joseph's steward did?

GAME: Ten Cent Relay

Now let's play a game where we all get to practice being good stewards. I'm going to **lend** each of you a dime and then divide you into teams (2 or 3 depending on number of kids there). The object of this game is to take good care of **my** dime and not drop it or lose it. But here's the trick – you are going to have to take turns balancing it on the top of your head as you run across the room and back. The team that finishes first gets to keep their dimes for being such good stewards of my money. After you play make a big deal about what a good job the winning team did with taking care of your money, then let everyone keep their dimes.

### **5 minutes Memory Verse**

Practice the memory verse with the kids. Use the overhead so everyone can see it as well. Ephesians 2:10:

"For we are God's workmanship,

created in Christ Jesus

to do good works,  
which God prepared  
in advance for us to do."

*point to all, point up "God", move hands like making a playdoh ball for "workmanship" because God created us sign "Jesus" (point your middle finger alternately into your palms to simulate the nails in His hands)  
thumbs up  
point up  
Point thumb over shoulder like "long ago"*

Pray and thank God for His Word, then send the kids to their Trek Teams.

### **15 minutes Trek Team Gear Up**

Ask the kids if they have anything they want to pray about.

Answer these questions for M&M's. For each question answered, everyone in the group gets an M&M candy.

- What is the most interesting thing you discovered today?
- What did you learn today that you did not know before?
- What is a steward?
- What kind of person makes a good steward?
- What are some things the stewards did in the Bible story today?
- What are we created for?

Show them the handouts for Operation: Christmas Child and discuss with them what the outreach is and how it will help other children. This is a fun and easy way to be good stewards of what God has given us by sharing our blessings with others.