

Loved. Equipped. Sent.

LEADER OVERVIEW | Three sessions of 75 minutes | Read Bible passages from the ESV

Purpose

Help boys know who Jesus is, understand the Gospel, grow through His Word and prayer, and practice serving and speaking about Him with love. Each session includes Scripture, a hands-on response, a student page, and repeated reassurance of Christ's love and care.

The biblical foundation

Day 1 - Know the King: John 10:11-18; Ephesians 2:1-10.

Day 2 - Be equipped: 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Matthew 6:9-13.

Day 3 - Live the commission: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Mark 10:42-45.

Keep the illustration in its place

"Agency," "briefing," "field office," and the ministry ID are teaching illustrations, not biblical titles or spiritual ranks. Jesus is Lord, not merely a director. The church is Christ's gathered people, not just a training facility. A card or completed mission cannot save anyone. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ, not by our works (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Love and protection: repeat with care

Teach John 10:11-18; John 16:33; Romans 8:35-39; and Hebrews 13:5-6 in context. Jesus lays down His life for His sheep, remains faithful through trouble, and will not abandon His people. Do not promise that Christians never get hurt or afraid. God's care includes seeking help and following wise safety instructions. Never suggest that harm happens because a child lacked faith.

Before the first session

Prepare Bibles, pencils, the student pages, name tags, a timer, and activity materials listed each day. Review the lessons with church leadership. Use approved volunteers and your church's child protection procedures. Obtain parent permission for participation and any photography; no photo is required. Do not send boys to approach strangers or share personal details online.

Teach for this age group

For ages 5-7, read aloud, use short explanations, offer drawing instead of writing, and keep an adult with each small group. For ages 8-11, ask for a reason from the passage and add an extra sentence or verse reference. Pair reading ability sensitively; never make a struggling reader perform.

Pastoral response and follow-up

Invite questions and private conversation with an approved leader. Explain repentance and faith without pressure, forced public responses, or assumptions that every participant is converted. Send the daily family prompt home. Celebrate learning and faithful effort without ranking anyone's spirituality.

Day 1 | Know the King

BIG IDEA: Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Salvation is His gift, not our achievement.

Read and prepare

Read John 10:11–18 and Ephesians 2:1–10. Supplies: Bible, cotton balls or paper sheep, paper path, tape, crayons, student page. Read the passages yourself first. Use a simple sheep picture; no blindfolds, chasing, or frightening rescue scenes.

75-minute session plan

0–8 Welcome and names • 8–15 Shepherd’s path game • 15–30 Bible briefing • 30–42 Guided conversation • 42–57 Shepherd-care craft • 57–67 Student page • 67–75 Prayer and family send-off.

Opening and game | 15 minutes

Ask: “Who helps care for you?” Say: “Today we will learn why Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd.” Let boys guide paper sheep along a taped path to a sheepfold. Helpers point out the route. Explain: the game helps us picture guidance and care; Jesus’ saving work is far greater than a game.

Bible briefing | 15 minutes

Read John 10:11–18 aloud. Ask who the Shepherd is and what He does for His sheep. Explain that Jesus willingly gave His life and rose again. Read Ephesians 2:4–10, summarizing verses 1–3: sin separates us from God and we cannot rescue ourselves. God gives life through Christ. Explain grace as undeserved kindness and faith as trusting Jesus. Good works follow salvation; they cannot buy it.

Discuss | 12 minutes

Ask: “What makes Jesus a good Shepherd? Can being nice or carrying an agent card save us? What did Jesus do that we could never do for ourselves?” Invite questions. Answer gently: we all need forgiveness; Jesus saves those who turn to Him in faith. Do not use the game to imply we earn salvation by finding the correct route.

Create and respond | 25 minutes

Make a paper sheep beside a drawn shepherd. Label the page “Jesus is the Good Shepherd” and John 10:11. Younger boys may trace or dictate; older boys add what Jesus did for His sheep. Complete the student page together. Ask each boy to name one truth he learned; drawing or speaking is equally welcome.

Love-and-care reminders | opening, middle, closing

Say: “Jesus showed His love by giving His life. He hears us when we pray. When you feel afraid, you can tell Him and a trusted grown-up.” Clarify: Jesus’ care does not mean nothing painful happens. Read or summarize John 16:33: trouble is real, and Jesus has overcome the world.

Prayer and home connection | 8 minutes

Pray: “Jesus, thank You for Your love and Your saving work. Help us trust You and ask for help when we are afraid. Amen.” At pickup, ask families to read John 10:11 and discuss how Jesus cares for His sheep. Check understanding: can the boy explain that grace is a gift?

Day 1 | My field notes

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Remember: Jesus gave His life for His sheep. We cannot earn salvation. Read John 10:11 and Ephesians 2:8-10 with a grown-up.

1. Draw it

Draw Jesus caring for His sheep. What did He do that shows His love?

2. Talk or write

Can a badge, good behavior, or finishing a mission save me? What does Ephesians 2:8-9 teach?

3. When I feel afraid

I can pray to Jesus. I can also tell this trusted grown-up:

4. One truth I learned about Jesus

Ages 5-7: draw or tell your answer. Ages 8-11: write an answer and its Bible reference.

Family mission

Read John 10:11 together. Ask: "How is Jesus different from an ordinary shepherd?" Pray about one worry. Remind your child that asking for help is wise and that being afraid does not mean Jesus has stopped caring.

LEADER CHECK: Can the child distinguish God's gift of salvation from doing good things?

Day 2 | Be equipped

BIG IDEA: God teaches us through His Word and invites us to pray.

Read and prepare

Read 2 Timothy 3:14–17 and Matthew 6:9–13. Supplies: Bible, safe everyday items for a preparation game (water bottle, pencil, flashlight), four paper prayer cards per child, crayons, student page. Optional care passage: Hebrews 13:5–6.

75-minute session plan

0–8 Welcome and recap • 8–18 Ready-for-the-day game • 18–33 Bible briefing • 33–45 Prayer practice • 45–58 Prayer-card activity • 58–68 Student page • 68–75 Prayer and family send-off.

Welcome and preparation game | 18 minutes

Repeat: “Jesus showed His love by giving His life. We can pray and ask for help.” Show ordinary items and ask what each prepares us to do. Then show a Bible: it teaches us about God and equips us to live for Him. Avoid presenting the Bible as a magic object that protects us merely by being carried.

Bible briefing | 15 minutes

Read 2 Timothy 3:14–17. Explain that Scripture is God-breathed: it teaches truth, corrects wrong choices, and trains us to live rightly. It points us to salvation through faith in Christ. Read Matthew 6:9–13. Jesus teaches His disciples to honor the Father, seek His will, ask for daily needs and forgiveness, and ask for help against evil. Prayer is conversation with God, not a formula that forces our wishes.

Prayer practice | 12 minutes

Use four simple prompts: Praise God; ask for His will; bring needs; ask for forgiveness and help. Model each with one short sentence. Allow silence or a quiet personal prayer. Never require children to disclose sins or family troubles publicly. Ask: “What can we do when God’s answer is different from what we hoped?”

Make a prayer briefing | 23 minutes

Create four cards using the prompts above. Boys draw or write one example on each. Keep private needs private. Complete the student page. Ages 8–11 can connect one card to a phrase in Matthew 6:9–13; ages 5–7 can point while a leader reads.

Love-and-care reminders | three times today

At arrival, before prayer practice, and at closing say: “Jesus cares for you. You can bring Him your needs. You do not have to carry your worries alone.” Explain Hebrews 13:5–6 as God’s faithful presence with His people. His presence does not remove every hard experience; we can trust Him and ask trusted adults for help.

Prayer and home connection | 7 minutes

Pray through the four prompts without rushing. Send the cards home. Family mission: read Matthew 6:9–13 and pray one short prayer together. Check understanding: ask a boy to name one way Scripture helps us and one thing Jesus taught us to pray.

Day 2 | My prayer briefing

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Read together

2 Timothy 3:14-17; Matthew 6:9-13. God's Word teaches us. Jesus invites His disciples to pray. We do not need impressive words.

1. Praise

God, You are...

2. Your will

God, help me obey You when...

3. Needs

God, please help with... (You may keep this private.)

4. Forgiveness and help

God, forgive me and help me make a right choice about...

When I am worried

I can pray, pause, and ask a trusted grown-up for help. Jesus cares for His people even when life is hard (Hebrews 13:5-6; John 16:33).

Family mission

Use the four prayer cards together tonight. Ask: "What does the Bible teach us about God that helps us pray?" Ages 8-11: explain why prayer is different from making a wish.

LEADER CHECK: Can the child name one purpose of Scripture and one part of Jesus' model prayer?

Day 3 | Live the commission

BIG IDEA: Jesus sends His followers to make disciples and serve with love.

Read and prepare

Read Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8; Mark 10:42–45. Supplies: Bibles, paper, markers, cards or sealed supplies for a church-approved service project. Confirm recipients and delivery with a leader. No unsupervised visits or outreach to strangers.

75-minute session plan

0–8 Welcome and reassurance • 8–18 Good-news practice • 18–33 Bible briefing • 33–45 Conversation practice • 45–60 Service mission • 60–68 Student page • 68–75 Prayer and commissioning reminder.

Welcome and good-news practice | 18 minutes

Ask boys to share a simple piece of good news without private information. Explain that the Gospel is the good news of what Jesus has done to save sinners. Review: Jesus loves and cares; salvation is a gift; Scripture and prayer equip us. An agent card can remind us of a calling, but it gives no spiritual power.

Bible briefing | 15 minutes

Read Matthew 28:18–20: Jesus has all authority and commands His followers to make disciples, baptizing and teaching them to obey Him. Explain that church leaders guide baptism; this activity does not replace it. Read Acts 1:8: witness depends on the Holy Spirit's power. Read Mark 10:42–45: Jesus teaches service instead of seeking importance. Serving shows love; it is not a substitute for explaining the Gospel.

Practice with kindness | 12 minutes

Model: "I am learning about Jesus. He died for sinners and rose again. Would you like to learn about Him with me?" In pairs, practice asking permission and listening. If a friend says no, answer kindly and respect the answer. No pressure, arguments, promises of prizes, or counting conversions. Only God changes hearts.

Service mission and response | 23 minutes

Make encouragement cards for approved church recipients, or assemble supplies for an approved ministry with adult supervision. Write one honest kind sentence; avoid assuming what someone is experiencing. Complete the student page. Ask: "How can we serve without expecting something back?"

Love-and-care reminders | arrival, before mission, closing

Jesus promises His presence with His disciples in Matthew 28:20. Say: "Jesus does not send His people alone. He loves and cares for them. You can pray and ask for help." Remind boys that His promise does not make unsafe actions safe. Stay with approved adults and tell a trusted grown-up about anything worrying or unsafe.

Close and connect with home | 7 minutes

Invite each boy to name one next step. Pray for love, courage, and the Spirit's help. If giving a ministry ID, explain that it is a reminder, not proof of salvation or church membership. Family mission: read Matthew 28:18–20; choose one safe act of service together. Check understanding: can boys explain both making disciples and serving?

Day 3 | My next faithful step

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Our mission passages

Matthew 28:18-20 • Acts 1:8 • Mark 10:42-45. Jesus has authority. His Spirit empowers witness. His followers serve others.

1. Tell the good news

What did Jesus do for sinners? Ages 5-7: tell a leader. Ages 8-11: write two sentences.

2. Serve with love

With my family or approved church leaders, I can help by...

3. Be a kind witness

How can I respond if a friend does not want to talk about Jesus?

4. Remember His care

When I need courage, I can remember Jesus' promise in Matthew 28:20. When I feel unsafe, I can tell...

Family mission and review

Read Matthew 28:18-20. Plan one supervised act of service. Ask your child: "Who saves us? What helps us grow? What did Jesus command His followers to do?" Keep praying for people with love; do not treat them as targets.

MY REMINDER: Loved by Jesus. Learning His Word. Serving with love.

A ministry card does not save me. I need Jesus.