

# 252 BASICS®

**150 Bible stories + 36 virtues + 3 basic truths = 252 Basics**

## 3 Basic Truths

*"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52, NIV).* So we want every kid to know and understand these three things: **I need to make the wise choice** (wisdom); **I can trust God no matter what** (faith); and **I should treat others the way I want to be treated** (friendship). All 252 Basics lessons focus on at least one of the three basic concept areas from this verse (wisdom, faith, and friendship) in addition to "traditional" concept areas (like God, Jesus, the Bible, the church, family, community, and self).

## 36 Virtues

*"His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness ... For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:3,8, NIV).* God loves us dearly and wants us to be imitators of Him (Ephesians 5:1). So He is at work in us to make us more like Himself. As we become more like Him, He'll use those qualities, or virtues, in us to change the world around us. That's why 252 Basics content is organized into a different biblical virtue each month, a quality of God's nature that He instills in His followers. Twelve different virtues each year, for a total of 36 biblical virtues.

## 150 Bible Stories

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 16-17, NIV).* All Scripture is equally inspired, but not equally applicable. (For example, you probably wouldn't tell first graders about David and Bathsheba!) Each lesson in 252 Basics revolves around one of about 150 Bible stories in a three-year span—what we consider the most relevant Bible stories for kindergarten through fifth grade.



### About God's plan for our salvation

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NIV).* A simple explanation of the salvation message, based on John 3:16, is included in 252 Basics about every other month. It is presented in a clear, non-threatening way that fits naturally with the lesson.

### Faith Skills

Every month that has a fifth week is a good opportunity to change gears, and so we do. Fifth weeks are typically dedicated to one of 5 Faith Skills we want every kid to master:

1. **Navigate the Bible** (survey and locate)
2. **Personalize Scripture** (memorize and apply)
3. **Dialogue with God** (public and private)
4. **Articulate faith** (share and defend)
5. **Worship with your life** (praise and give)

FAITH  
SKILL



## SEPTEMBER 2010

core virtue

**RESPECT** • Showing others they are important by what you say and do

... AND JESUS GREW IN WISDOM  
AND STATURE AND FAVOR WITH  
GOD AND MAN. LUKE 2:52

**memory verse** • "Show proper respect to everyone." 1 Peter 2:17, NIV



	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
Sep 5	friendship / family / community	<b>Who's the Boss?</b> (showing respect for authority) • Romans 13:1-7	You respect God when you show respect for people in charge.
Sep 12	friendship / family / community	<b>Actions Speak Louder</b> (David spares Saul's life) • 1 Samuel 18; 19; 24	You can show respect with your actions.
Sep 19	friendship / family / community	<b>What You Say</b> (taming the tongue) • James 3:9-12	You can show respect with your words.
Sep 26	friendship / family / community	<b>Chain of Command</b> (the faith of the centurion) • Matthew 8:5-13	Show respect to God because He's in charge of everything.

## OCTOBER 2010

core virtue

**INITIATIVE** • Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

**memory verse** • "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2:4, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
Oct 3	wisdom / community	<b>Get a Clue</b> (Nehemiah hears about the wall) • Nehemiah 1	When there's a job to be done, first you have to see it.
Oct 10	wisdom / community	<b>Someone's Gotta Do It</b> (Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem) • Nehemiah 2:1-9, 11-18	When there's a job to be done, don't wait for someone else to do it.
Oct 17	wisdom / community	<b>Crime Seen</b> (Nehemiah helps the poor) • Nehemiah 5:1-12	When there are people in need, don't wait for someone else to help them.
Oct 24	wisdom / community	<b>Seeing Is Believing</b> (the wall is rebuilt) • Nehemiah 6:15-16; 8:1-3a, 17b	When you've done what YOU can do, trust God to do what He can do.
Oct 31	articulate faith 	<b>Look Who's Talking</b> (Philip and the Ethiopian) • Acts 8:26-39	If someone asks what you believe, what will you say? 



## NOVEMBER 2010

core virtue

**UNIQUENESS** • Learning more about others so you can know more about yourself

... AND JESUS GREW IN WISDOM  
AND STATURE AND FAVOR WITH  
GOD AND MAN. LUKE 2:52

**memory verse** • "There are different kinds of gifts. But they are all given by the same Spirit." 1 Corinthians 12:4, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
Nov 7	friendship / God / self	<b>Stand Out</b> (Deborah) • Judges 4:1-24	God made everybody different.
Nov 14	friendship / God / self	<b>Mr. Nobody</b> (Gideon battles the Midianites) • Judges 6:11-7:22	God made everybody a somebody.
Nov 21	friendship / God / self	<b>Odd Man Out</b> (John the Baptist) • Matthew 3:1-6	God can use anybody to share His message. 🌸
Nov 28	friendship / God / self	<b>One in a Million</b> (gifts of the Holy Spirit) • 1 Corinthians 12:1-11	God gave everybody special abilities.

## DECEMBER 2010

core virtue

**JOY** • Finding a way to be happy, even when things don't go your way

**memory verse** • "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Philippians 4:4, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
Dec 5	faith / God / Jesus	<b>Expecting</b> (the birth of John the Baptist) • Luke 1:5-25, 57-79	You can have joy because God keeps His promises. 🌸
Dec 12	faith / God / Jesus	<b>Believing</b> (Gabriel appears to Mary) • Luke 1:26-38	You can have joy because anything is possible with God.
Dec 19	faith / God / Jesus	<b>Rejoicing</b> (Jesus is born) • Luke 2:1-20	You can have joy because God sent His Son. 🌸
Dec 26	faith / God / Jesus	<b>Hoping</b> (Simeon at the temple) • Luke 2:21-40	You can have joy because God has a plan to make things right.




## JANUARY 2011

core virtue

**DETERMINATION** • Deciding it's worth it to finish what you've started

... AND JESUS GREW IN WISDOM  
AND STATURE AND FAVOR WITH  
GOD AND MAN. LUKE 2:52

**memory verse** • "Let us keep on running the race marked out for us." Hebrews 12:1, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story
Jan 2	wisdom / self	<b>Leaving Egypt</b> (the plagues) • Exodus 3; 5; 7-11; 12
Jan 9	wisdom / self	<b>Desert Blues</b> (40 years in the wilderness) • Numbers 14:1-39
Jan 16	wisdom / self	<b>No Excuses</b> (learning from Israel's history) • 1 Corinthians 10:6,11-13
Jan 23	wisdom / self	<b>Finishing Right</b> (Paul and his sufferings) • 2 Corinthians 11:23b-27; Acts 20:24
Jan 30	personalize Scripture 	<b>Road Map</b> (Paul advises Timothy) • 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### bottom line

Keep doing what God says because He is God.

Keep doing what you should do so you don't miss something really good.

Keep doing what you should do because God says you can.

Keep doing what you should do even if it's hard.

Learning what God says will help you keep doing what you should.

## FEBRUARY 2011

core virtue

**KINDNESS** • Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them

**memory verse** • "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story
Feb 6	friendship / community	<b>Golden Rule</b> (the principle of the Golden Rule) • Luke 6:17-20,27-36
Feb 13	friendship / community	<b>Child Care</b> (Jesus and the children) • Mark 10:13-16
Feb 20	friendship / community	<b>You Belong</b> (the least of these) • Matthew 25:35-40
Feb 27	friendship / community	<b>Second Chance</b> (Barnabas and Saul) • Acts 9:26-30

### bottom line

Do to others what you want them to do to you.

Treat others the way Jesus would treat them.

Treat others as if they belong to God. 

Do for your enemies what they wouldn't do for you. 



## MARCH 2011

core virtue

**COURAGE** • Being brave enough to do what you should do even when you're afraid

... AND JESUS GREW IN WISDOM  
AND STATURE AND FAVOR WITH  
GOD AND MAN. LUKE 2:52

**memory verse** • "When I am afraid, I will trust in you." Psalm 56:3, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
Mar 6	faith / God	<b>Hit Me With Your Best Shot</b> (David and Goliath) • 1 Samuel 17:1-50	When you're afraid, remember God is with you.
Mar 13	faith / God	<b>The Heat Is On</b> (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) • Daniel 3	Remember God is with you when you do the right thing.
Mar 20	faith / God	<b>Stand by Me</b> (Esther helps the Jews) • Esther 4; 5:1-8; 7:1-6; 8:3-8	Remember God is with you when you speak up for what's right.
Mar 27	faith / God	<b>The Lion Sleeps Tonight</b> (Daniel in the den of lions) • Daniel 6:1-23	Remember God is with you when you are the only one doing the right thing.

## APRIL 2011

core virtue

**HUMILITY** • Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

**memory verse** • "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." Philippians 2:3, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
Apr 3	friendship / Jesus	<b>Served</b> (Jesus washes the disciples' feet) • John 13:1-17	Treat others like they're more important than you.
Apr 10	friendship / Jesus	<b>Arrested</b> (Jesus prays and is arrested) • Luke 22:39-44; John 18:2-11	To put others first, you may need to put God first. 🌸
Apr 17	friendship / Jesus	<b>Crucified</b> (Jesus is tried and crucified) • Mark 14:53,55-65; 15:1-20,22-33,37-39	Jesus put you first when He died on the cross. 🌸
Apr 24	friendship / Jesus <b>EASTER</b>	<b>Resurrected</b> (Jesus is buried and resurrected) • Matthew 28:1-10,16-20	You should put others first because Jesus is ALIVE! 🌸



## MAY 2011

core virtue

**FORGIVENESS** • Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

... AND JESUS GREW IN WISDOM  
AND STATURE AND FAVOR WITH  
GOD AND MAN. LUKE 2:52

**memory verse** • "Forgive the things you are holding against one another. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
May 1	friendship / community	<b>No Mercy</b> (the parable of the unmerciful servant) • Matthew 18:21-35	Since God forgives you, you should forgive others. 🌸
May 8	friendship / community	<b>Making Change</b> (Jesus and Zacchaeus) • Luke 19:1-9	When people are forgiven, it can change them. 🌸
May 15	friendship / community	<b>Getting Even God's Way</b> (Joseph and his brothers) • Genesis 45:1-15	When you want to get even, do the opposite.
May 22	friendship / community	<b>Go First</b> (Jesus teaches about forgiveness) • Matthew 5:1-2,23-24	Don't wait to start making things right with others.
May 29	dialogue with God <b>FAITH SKILL</b>	<b>All Access</b> (present your requests to God) • Philippians 4:6-7	You can talk to God about anything.

## JUNE 2011

core virtue

**FAITH** • Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

**memory verse** • "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
June 5	faith / Jesus / self	<b>Sky Writer</b> (God made everything) • Hebrews 10:32-35; 11:1-3	You can trust in a God you can't see because you can see what He's created.
June 12	faith / Jesus / self	<b>Take Off</b> (God's promise to Abraham) • Hebrews 10:32-35; 11:8-12; Genesis 12:1-7	You can trust that God will keep His promises because you can see the promises He's kept. 🌸
June 19	faith / Jesus / self	<b>Turbulence</b> (Joseph remained faithful) • Hebrews 10:32-35; 11:22; Genesis 37:9; 39:2,20-21; 41:39-40	You can trust God to be with you in bad times because you've seen how faithful He's been.
June 26	faith / Jesus / self	<b>Flight Plan</b> (crossing the Red Sea) • Hebrews 10:32-35; 11:27,29; Exodus 14:5-31	You can trust that God can do the impossible because He's God.



# JULY 2011

core virtue

## PERSEVERANCE • Refusing to give up when life gets hard

... AND JESUS GREW IN WISDOM AND STATURE AND FAVOR WITH GOD AND MAN. LUKE 2:52

**memory verse** • *“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*  
Isaiah 40:31, NIV

	concept area(s)	Bible story	bottom line
July 3	wisdom / Jesus / self	<b>Cloud Cover</b> (a cloud of witnesses) • Hebrews 10:32-36; 11:32-40; 12:1	When life seems impossible, remember what others did.
July 10	wisdom / Jesus / self	<b>The Navigator</b> (keep your eyes on Jesus) • Hebrews 12:2-3; Matthew 28:20b	When life seems impossible, remember what Jesus did for you. 🌸
July 17	wisdom / Jesus / self	<b>Course Correction</b> (God our Father) • Hebrews 12:7,9-12	When life seems impossible, remember what God wants to do in you.
July 24	wisdom / Jesus / self	<b>Baggage Check</b> (persevere to strengthen others) • Hebrews 12:12-15	When life seems impossible, remember what you do can help someone else's faith.
July 31	navigate the Bible <b>FAITH SKILL</b>	<b>RIY</b> (Paul, Silas, and the Bereans) • Acts 17:10-12	You can read it for yourself.

# AUGUST 2011

core virtue

**memory verse** •

**concept area(s)**

**Bible story**

**bottom line**

Aug 7			
Aug 14			
Aug 21			
Aug 28			