

KIDS EMPOWERED!

A TWELVE MONTH CURRICULUM

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

KIDS EMPOWERED! is a twelve-month children's ministry curriculum that is designed to lead kids into a real relationship with God (recommended for ages 6-12). Just like Jesus valued and welcomed children, we must see kids as vital members of the kingdom of God. They can know God, hear His voice, walk in His ways, and move in the Holy Spirit at their young age!

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."
(Matthew 19:14)

The lessons are broken down into twelve themes, which cover a variety of subjects and rotate through the following three major focuses:

1. Empowered to Know: These themes focus on knowing God and growing in a relationship with Him.
2. Empowered to Grow: These themes are all about growing in character and obedience to God.
3. Empowered to Show: These themes emphasize demonstrating the love and power of God to others.

Curriculum Distinctives

1. Relationship Focused: The lessons continually point children to God and the priority of having a real relationship with Him. Kids are encouraged to maintain a journal in order to keep track of what God is doing in their lives and speaking to them (It is recommended that the Kids Ministry provide a journal for each child!).

2. Grounded in the Word: Scripture is used frequently, and kids are taught the value of getting into the Bible for themselves. Each of the twelve themes has a memory verse that the children will learn and memorize.

3. Spirit-empowered: Kids are invited to be filled with the Holy Spirit and are equipped to begin to move in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit who works in and through adults will work in the kids!

4. Immediate Application: Each lesson has a section where kids can immediately apply what has been taught. This makes room for kids to encounter God and put into practice what they are learning. One of the best ways for kids to learn is by doing!

Twelve Themes

Theme 1: Empowered to KNOW: God Wants a Relationship with You!

- Lesson 1: God is Our Creator!
- Lesson 2: Why Did Jesus Die?
- Lesson 3: God Gives us a New Heart
- Lesson 4: Jesus is Savior and Lord

Theme 2: Empowered to GROW: You Can Love God!

- Lesson 1: God Loves You!
- Lesson 2: Loving God by Spending Time with Him
- Lesson 3: Loving God by Loving Others
- Lesson 4: Loving God by Obeying Him

Theme 3: Empowered to SHOW: God Wants to Work Through You!

- Lesson 1: God Loves to Work Through Kids!
- Lesson 2: Caring about Others
- Lesson 3: Giving to Others
- Lesson 4: Praying for Others

Theme 4: Empowered to KNOW: We are Called to be Worshipers!

- Lesson 1: God is so Awesome!
- Lesson 2: Worshipping God with Our Lives
- Lesson 3: Praise and Worship to God
- Lesson 4: Ways to Praise God

Theme 5: Empowered to GROW: We can Always Trust God!

- Lesson 1: God is Always Good!
- Lesson 2: Trusting God with your Desires
- Lesson 3: Submit your Way to God
- Lesson 4: Trusting God When Things are Hard

Theme 6: Empowered to SHOW: We can Share Jesus with Others!

- Lesson 1: God Wants Everyone to Know Him!
- Lesson 2: Do you Know the Gospel?
- Lesson 3: How You Can Share the Gospel
- Lesson 4: We're Not Ashamed of Jesus

Theme 7: Empowered to KNOW: God Wants to Meet with You!

- Lesson 1: God Loves to Spend Time with You!
- Lesson 2: How to Have Time with God
- Lesson 3: Why Reading the Bible is Important
- Lesson 4: What to Pray to God About

Theme 8: Empowered to GROW: The Holy Spirit Gives You Power!

- Lesson 1: God Lives inside of You!
- Lesson 2: Being Filled with the Holy Spirit
- Lesson 3: The Fruit of the Spirit
- Lesson 4: The Holy Spirit Helps Us

Theme 9: Empowered to SHOW: Jesus Still Heals People!

- Lesson 1: God is a Healer!
- Lesson 2: Why Did Jesus Heal People?
- Lesson 3: How to Heal the Sick
- Lesson 4: Getting Words of Knowledge

Theme 10: Empowered to KNOW: You Can Hear God's Voice!

- Lesson 1: God Speaks!
- Lesson 2: Hearing God in His Word
- Lesson 3: Hearing God in Visions and Dreams
- Lesson 4: Hearing God by Words and Feelings

Theme 11: Empowered to GROW: You Can Overcome Temptation!

- Lesson 1: God is Greater than Satan!
- Lesson 2: How Jesus Beat the Devil
- Lesson 3: Our Mighty Weapons
- Lesson 4: What if I Sin?

Theme 12: Empowered to SHOW: God has Gifts for You!

- Lesson 1: The Holy Spirit Gives Gifts!
- Lesson 2: Gifts of Power
- Lesson 3: Gifts of Revelation
- Lesson 4: Gifts of Speaking

*There are 48 lessons total. We encourage you to use fifth Sundays of the month for something special:

- A full kids service with live worship, teaching, and ministry time (your pastor, kids ministry director, or guest speaker can teach and minister)
- Family service with kids and their parents
- A class for review and more application of what has been taught
- An outreach event for children

Lesson Format

Every lesson is broken up into three main sections:

1. Welcome and Intro Activity: This is the time to welcome the children into the classroom and set the tone for a fun and engaging class experience. This time is also for tasks like taking attendance, passing out the snack, and reviewing the classroom expectations, as well as for reciting the memory verse and opening in prayer.

It is recommended that you have an Intro Activity towards the beginning of class. The Intro Activity could be a fun game, an object lesson, or an energetic time of worship. Remember, kids love to have fun! We want to engage them from the beginning, and continue to do so throughout the lesson.

*Please note that Intro Activities are *not* provided in this curriculum.

2. Large Group Lesson: The Large Group Lesson has two primary facets: a time of *teaching* and a time of *application*. The teaching outlines are meant to give you a track to follow in covering the information in each lesson. See this as a teaching guide that you can customize, rather than a rigid formula to follow. This curriculum is intentionally designed for teachers/volunteers to be able to add their own creativity and be led by the Holy Spirit in how they prepare and teach. Be free to add your own object lessons, skits, activities, etc. as you teach! (The curriculum comes with a section of helpful advice and examples of how to teach, lead, and minister to kids).

The “Personal Application” part of the Large Group Lesson is a very important aspect of this curriculum. Children will not only learn about God, they will have a chance to personally encounter Him and directly apply what they are learning.

3. Small Group Time: The small group time is a great chance for the kids to discuss what they learned, what God is speaking to them, and how the Holy Spirit is moving. It is also a great relationship building time. The major aspects of this time include discussion, testimony time, and time of prayer.

Sample Lessons

Below are three sample lessons from *KIDS EMPOWERED!*

Sample Lesson: Why Reading the Bible is Important

Classroom Expectations:

1. No talking out of turn
2. No getting out of your seat
3. No bothering your neighbor

Consequences:

1. Gentle reminder
2. Move child to a different seat
3. Time out

Remember:

Teaching has occurred when a student can relay the information in their own words. Think of activities that require them to do that.

WELCOME - up to 10 minutes

Just for Fun: Have the kids pair up and share what the most important part of their day is.

Pass out Snack: You can serve the provided snack or you may want to consider bringing in a fun lesson-themed snack.

Announcements: Use the welcome time to announce any birthdays, upcoming events in Kids Ministry, and any other pertinent information.

Welcome any Visitors: Be sure to make any visitors feel extra welcome!

Take Attendance: The Teacher Assistant can take attendance while the Teacher is leading, so as to not take up any valuable time.

Review Memory Verse:

“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.”

(Matthew 6:6)

Review Classroom Expectations: To have a better classroom experience, be sure to set the standards up front.

Open with Prayer: Invite the Holy Spirit to come and move in the class time, ask God to lead you as you teach, and pray for the kids.

INTRO ACTIVITY - up to 10 minutes

*Use this time to do a fun game, lesson-themed object lesson, or have a time of energetic worship!

Sample Lesson: Why Reading the Bible is Important

LARGE GROUP LESSON - up to 25 minutes

Main Point: Reading the Bible is a great way to get to know God and grow in Him!

Read: “Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.” (1 Peter 2:2 NIV)

Ask: In last week’s lesson, we learned about spiritual disciplines. Does anyone remember what a *spiritual discipline* is? (*A spiritual discipline is something that you do on a regular basis that helps you grow in your relationship with God.*)

Ask: Did anyone spend time with God this past week?

When we get saved and begin our relationship with God, we are like a “spiritual baby.” Just like you don’t want to stay a baby physically, you don’t want to stay a baby spiritually either! We should keep growing into all that God wants us to be.

Spending time alone with God in the “secret place” is a great spiritual discipline that helps us grow. And reading the Bible is one of the best things that we can do to get to know God better and grow in our relationship with Him.

Ask: Can anyone think of some reasons why it is important to read the Bible?

Why is Reading the Bible Important?

1. God’s Word helps us know God better: God’s Word is one of the ways that He reveals Himself to us. That means it helps us to know what He is like, and helps us to hear His voice.

2. God’s Word is like food to our spirit: When we read the Bible, it is like food to our spirit! Just like eating good food helps us to grow and be healthy physically, reading the Bible helps us to grow and be healthy spiritually!

Sample Lesson: Why Reading the Bible is Important

Example: When you go without food, your body gets weak, and you feel tired and grumpy. Well, that is what happens to us spiritually when we go without time in prayer and God's Word!

3. God's Word is a weapon against the devil: When Jesus was tempted by the devil, He fought him by quoting the Bible. When we know Bible verses, we can use them as a weapon against the devil, just like Jesus did!

Example: If there is an area where you are being tempted or struggling in, find a Bible verse (or have your mom or dad find one for you) that relates to the struggle. Then, memorize the verse and quote it when you feel tempted! (*Consider giving a personal example, or some specific examples of verses that relate to particular struggles like fear, self-control, etc.*)

4. God's Word teaches us how to live: When we read the Bible, we can learn about the best way to live. God has instructions for us on how to obey Him and live the life He has called us to live. And His way is always best!

Key Point: When you read the Bible, ask for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to truth and open your ears to hear God's voice!

You can take time to read the Bible every day! If you don't know where to start, pick a book of the Bible like Matthew and begin reading through it, a little at a time. You can also ask your mom or dad to help you know how to read the Bible better. (If you can't read yet, ask your mom or dad to get you the Bible on CD, or on their phone, that you can play during your quiet times).

Make It Personal: Share about how you read the Bible, and give an example of how God spoke to you through His Word.

Summary: We don't want to stay as a "spiritual baby." We want to keep growing spiritually! Reading the Bible on a regular basis is a great way to grow up in the Lord.

Sample Lesson: Why Reading the Bible is Important

Personal Application:

Read: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." (John 17:17)

Invite the Holy Spirit to come and lead, guide, and direct the time. Pray for the kids to hear God speaking to them personally as they read His Word.

Have the kids spread out so as not to distract one another, and have them each read their Bibles for a few minutes. (If the kids cannot read, have the kids spread out and read aloud to them from a passage of your choice). Allow time for the kids to share what spoke to them as they read, or as you read to them.

SMALL GROUP TIME - up to 15 minutes

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some of your favorite stories in the Bible?
2. Have you ever spent time reading the Bible on your own?
3. Have you ever used a Bible verse to help you when you felt tempted or were struggling with something?

Testimony Time

Allow space for the kids to share testimonies from their journals. (Bring in *your* journal and share a testimony. This will reinforce the desire for kids to bring in theirs!) You can also share a cool testimony you heard recently of God working through a child.

Closing Prayer

Take time to pray! Ask the kids if they have any prayer requests and see if any of the other kids want to pray for them. Allow a little time for free-flowing prayer as well. End class with a prayer to bless and send out the kids.

Sample Lesson: Being Filled with the Holy Spirit

Classroom

Expectations:

1. No talking out of turn
2. No getting out of your seat
3. No bothering your neighbor

Consequences:

1. Gentle reminder
2. Move child to a different seat
3. Time out

Remember:

Teaching has occurred when a student can relay the information in their own words. Think of activities that require them to do that.

WELCOME - up to 10 minutes

Just for Fun: Have the kids pair up, blow up a balloon and keep it in the air. They must sit down when it touches the ground.

Pass out Snack: You can serve the provided snack or you may want to consider bringing in a fun lesson-themed snack.

Announcements: Use the welcome time to announce any birthdays, upcoming events in Kids Ministry, and any other pertinent information.

Welcome any Visitors: Be sure to make any visitors feel extra welcome!

Take Attendance: The Teacher Assistant can take attendance while the Teacher is leading, so as to not take up any valuable time.

Review Memory Verse:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 ESV)

Review Classroom Expectations: To have a better classroom experience, be sure to set the standards up front.

Open with Prayer: Invite the Holy Spirit to come and move in the class time, ask God to lead you as you teach, and pray for the kids.

INTRO ACTIVITY - up to 10 minutes

* Use this time to do a fun game, lesson-themed object lesson, or have a time of energetic worship!

Sample Lesson: Being Filled with the Holy Spirit

LARGE GROUP LESSON - up to 25 minutes

Main Point: God wants us to be filled with and empowered by the Holy Spirit!

Read: “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:4)

Once Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He spent time with His disciples before He went up to heaven. He told them that after He left, the Holy Spirit would come upon them and give them power to help them be His witnesses (*reference the memory verse, Acts 1:8*).

Key Point: The Holy Spirit not only wants to live inside of us, He wants to fill us and empower us!

Example: Sometimes in the Bible, the Holy Spirit is compared to water. If I put a little bit of water in a glass, is it filled? No! But If I let water run into the glass until it is overflowing, then it is *filled* with water! God does not just want the Holy Spirit to be inside us, He wants us to be filled with the Spirit!

When the disciples were first filled with the Holy Spirit, the Bible says that they “spoke in tongues.” There are other examples in the New Testament of people being filled with the Holy Spirit and then speaking in tongues as a result.

Ask: Does anyone know what speaking in tongues is?

Explain: Speaking in tongues means that you speak in a language that you have never learned, by the Holy Spirit’s power. When we speak or pray in tongues, we don’t know what we are saying, but we are praising God and praying according to His will. This is a powerful way to pray, and it helps build us up and strengthen us spiritually!

Being Filled with the Spirit

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is important, because it helps us to have the power we need to live the Christian life. As a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit, you might experience some or all of the following:

- Being more aware of God’s presence with you

Sample Lesson: Being Filled with the Holy Spirit

- Having more boldness to obey God and share about Jesus
- Being able to overcome temptation
- Having more joy and love in your heart
- Seeing God's supernatural power work through you

To be filled with the Holy Spirit, here is what you should do:

- 1. Desire to be filled:** The Bible says that those who are “thirsty” will be filled with the Spirit (see John 7:37-39). To be thirsty means that you really want to be filled.
- 2. Ask to be filled:** Pray and ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit! Believe that God will fill you because it is His gift to you.
- 3. Receive laying on of hands:** In the Bible, oftentimes people were filled with the Holy Spirit when someone laid hands on them. Ask a Kids Ministry teacher or one of your parents to lay hands on you and pray for you.
- 4. Speak out any words that come to you:** When you receive prayer, you may begin to feel God’s power on you, and you may have words in a different language come to your heart. Begin to speak the words out!

Key Point: Don’t be discouraged if you don’t speak in tongues right away. Keep asking and trust God to give you this gift! It might happen right away, or it might happen later in your own prayer time.

Make It Personal: Share about your personal experience with the Holy Spirit, including your experience with speaking in tongues.

Summary: God wants us to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we have the power to live the Christian life. Speaking in tongues is one of the things that happens when we are filled with the Holy Spirit and it is a great way to grow!

Sample Lesson: Being Filled with the Holy Spirit

Personal Application:

Read: “And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.” (Acts 19:6)

Invite the kids to receive the gift of tongues. Lead them all in a prayer out loud to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and then ask God to pour out His Spirit upon them.

Lay your hands on the kids and pray for them, encouraging them to pray and praise God in their own words, and speak out in tongues if the Holy Spirit is giving them words. Remind the kids who are waiting to actively participate by waiting on God and engaging with Him.

Have any kids who already speak in tongues help you pray and lay hands on their classmates. Spend some time all praying in tongues together.

SMALL GROUP TIME - up to 15 minutes

Questions for Discussion

1. Have you ever felt the Holy Spirit come upon you? Explain what it was like.
2. Why do we need the Holy Spirit's power in our lives?
3. Have you ever spoken in tongues before? Is this something that you want?

Testimony Time

Allow space for the kids to share testimonies from their journals. (Bring in *your* journal and share a testimony. This will reinforce the desire for kids to bring in theirs!) You can also share a cool testimony you heard recently of God working through a child.

Closing Prayer

Take time to pray! Ask the kids if they have any prayer requests and see if any of the other kids want to pray for them. Allow a little time for free-flowing prayer as well. End class with a prayer to bless and send out the kids.

Sample Lesson: How to Heal the Sick

Classroom Expectations:

1. No talking out of turn
2. No getting out of your seat
3. No bothering your neighbor

Consequences:

1. Gentle reminder
2. Move child to a different seat
3. Time out

Remember:

Teaching has occurred when a student can relay the information in their own words. Think of activities that require them to do that.

WELCOME - up to 10 minutes

Just for Fun: Have kids greet their friends by saying “Hi (child’s name), I’m glad you’re here today.”

Pass out Snack: You can serve the provided snack or you may want to consider bringing in a fun lesson-themed snack.

Announcements: Use the welcome time to announce any birthdays, upcoming events in Kids Ministry, and any other pertinent information.

Welcome any Visitors: Be sure to make any visitors feel extra welcome!

Take Attendance: The Teacher Assistant can take attendance while the Teacher is leading, so as to not take up any valuable time.

Review Memory Verse:

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”

(Matthew 4:23)

Review Classroom Expectations: To have a better classroom experience, be sure to set the standards up front.

Open with Prayer: Invite the Holy Spirit to come and move in the class time, ask God to lead you as you teach, and pray for the kids.

INTRO ACTIVITY - up to 10 minutes

* Use this time to do a fun game, lesson-themed object lesson, or have a time of energetic worship!

Sample Lesson: How to Heal the Sick

LARGE GROUP LESSON - up to 25 minutes

Main Point: God can use you to heal the sick!

Read: “And heal the sick there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’” (Luke 10:9)

We know that Jesus healed the sick...but did you know that He also sent His disciples to heal the sick too? Jesus did not want to be the only One who was healing people. He trained His twelve disciples and His other followers to heal the sick just like He did!

Who can God use to heal the sick? Do you have to be a pastor or church leader to heal the sick? No! Do you have to be a grown-up to heal the sick? No! God wants to use all believers to heal the sick!

Read: “And these signs will follow those who believe...they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mark 16:17-18)

Jesus said that anyone who is a believer can be used by God to heal the sick. And remember, God loves to work through kids just like He works through grown-ups. That means that He wants to use you to bring healing to others!

Key Point: Any believer can be used by God to heal the sick!

How to Heal the Sick

Here are some steps that you can use to minister to someone who needs healing. First, you can find out what is wrong and what they need healing from. Then, you can ask them if you can pray for them. If they say yes, do the following:

- 1. Lay hands on the person:** Put your hand on the person and ask the Holy Spirit to come upon them and minister His healing power, in the name of Jesus.

Sample Lesson: How to Heal the Sick

Example: You can say something like this: "Holy Spirit, I ask you to come upon John right now and release your healing power in his body in Jesus' name."

2. Command the sickness or pain to go: Speak to the sickness or the problem and tell it to go. You're not commanding God, you're commanding the sickness or pain to leave in the name of Jesus.

Example: Suppose John has pain in his back. Once you have laid hands on him and asked the Holy Spirit to come, say something like this: "I command all of the pain in John's back to leave him right now in the name of Jesus!"

Ask: What would you say if John had a headache? (*Consider walking through various healing needs*).

3. Ask how they are doing: Now ask to see if anything is happening as you are praying. Test to see if the pain is leaving or if they are being healed. Ask them if they felt anything happening while you prayed.

4. Pray again if you need to: If nothing is happening yet, or if there is only little difference, pray again! Sometimes we have to pray several times before the healing fully comes.

Key Point: When you pray for the sick, believe that God will touch them and heal them right then! But don't get discouraged if the healing does not happen at that time. We don't always understand how healing works, but we can be faithful and obedient to pray for the sick.

Make It Personal: Share how you started praying for the sick. Give any relevant testimonies or experiences that you have had.

Summary: All believers can be used by God to heal the sick. That includes kids! Step out and begin to pray for people who need healing.

Sample Lesson: How to Heal the Sick

Personal Application:

Invite the Holy Spirit to come and release gifts of healing to the kids.

Ask if any of the kids or teachers need healing. Have the kids lay hands on and minister healing to those who need it, according to what they learned in this lesson.

If no one needs to be healed, take this time to write down the names of people they know who need healing. Have them lay hands on the paper, praying and declaring authoritative statements of healing over them. Thank God for what He did and will continue to do.

SMALL GROUP TIME - up to 15 minutes

Questions for Discussion

1. Have you ever thought that God could use you to bring healing to the sick?
2. Have you ever prayed for the sick before? (*Not including during this theme in Kids Ministry!*)
3. Do you have any testimonies of being healed by God or being used by God to heal someone else?

Testimony Time

Allow space for the kids to share testimonies from their journals. (Bring in *your* journal and share a testimony. This will reinforce the desire for kids to bring in theirs!) You can also share a cool testimony you heard recently of God working through a child.

Closing Prayer

Take time to pray! Ask the kids if they have any prayer requests and see if any of the other kids want to pray for them. Allow a little time for free-flowing prayer as well. End class with a prayer to bless and send out the kids.