

Getting Beyond the Basics

Enhancing Your Sparks Ministry



HangGlider

- Glider attached to “pilot”
- Usually a hobby/leisure activity
- Some training required
- Individual or few involved
- Small investment
- Some planning for flight
- Hard to specify landing
- Ends with personal satisfaction

*Use your
imagination...*



SkyStormer

- Like a military plane on a mission
- This is pilot's profession
- Highly trained pilot; lives entrusted to his care
- Trained crew with specific jobs
- Large investment
- Each flight requires flight plan
- Lands precisely as planned
- Ends with Mission Accomplished



HangGlider

If Sparkies begin in this handbook – the beginning or entry level - and we expect them to keep progressing...

Isn't it fair to conclude that...



SkyStormer

Then, as leaders, we should be growing in our ministry skills – and learning the Bible verses with the Sparkies!

Where do we start? Relationships!

- Just show up - regularly!
- What it looks like...

Relationships enhance an experience beyond expectations. They add an enriching aspect to an event. In kidmin, I can host a ton of great events...including the weekend services. But if I want to make them greater, richer, more enticing...there must be a relational connection. ... And the best way to know someone is to be consistently present in their lives. Orange calls that “Showing up Predictably.”

Where do we start? Relationships!

“I have this crazy dream.

That kids will walk away from church feeling like they matter. Like they’re important. Like God has a plan for their life and if they come back over time they will hear more about that plan from someone who believes it too.

A volunteer who simply wants to do something important with their time. So they decided to serve in kids ministry.”

-Gina McClain

(www.churchleaders.com/children

“Why Kids Want to Come Back to Church”

Next - The Heart of Sparks: The *Wisdom Life Thread*

- Sparkies are learning a biblical foundation of WISDOM for knowing Christ.
- Wisdom: “Knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action.”
- *“Our kids are going to grow up and have to make thousands of decisions in their lives. Based on the definition, in order to act wisely a person needs to know what is true or right, and have just judgment.”*

How Wisdom Fits:

- The biographies in the handbooks help the children see how God worked in the lives of people in the past.
- “What I need to remember...” at the end of the biographies helps them understand and gives the leaders talking points.
- Verses they memorize at the end of the biographies help stress the truth learned.
- Take time to make sure they understand!



Help for Reinforcing Biographies

- The Leader FlightPlans offer numerous options for creative learning.



- The *Sparks Activity CD* has an activity sheet that corresponds to each biography (plus other fun stuff).
- The Bible Timeline in the clubber handbook helps put the event in perspective.

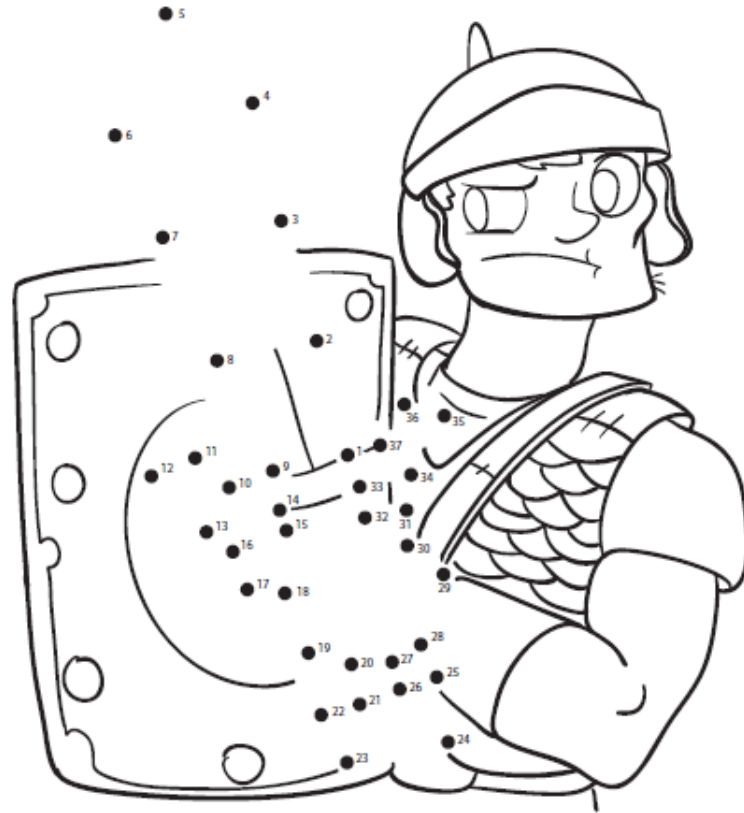
WingRunner
Biography 1 –
Deborah, a Mother
in Israel
from the Sparks
Activity CD



Deborah, a Mother in Israel
Deuteronomy 6:5, Red Jewel 1:2



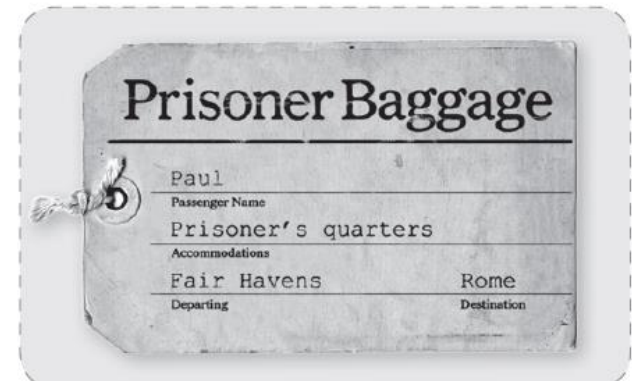
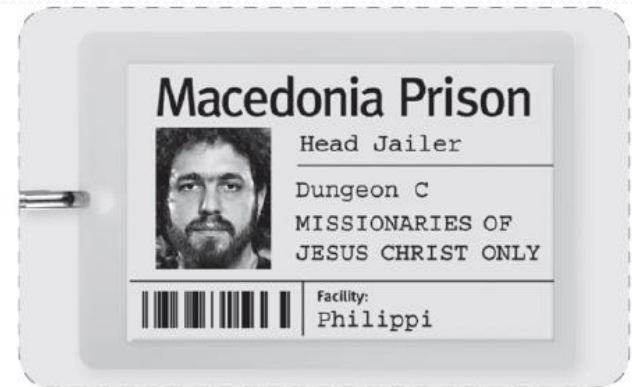
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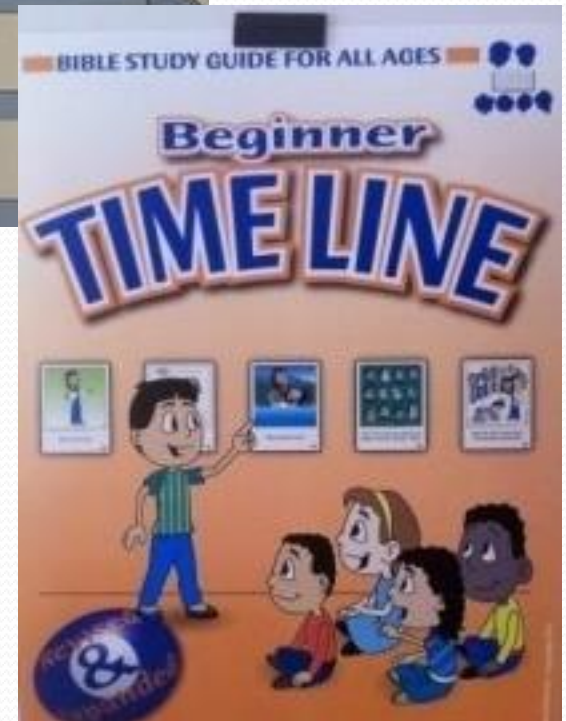
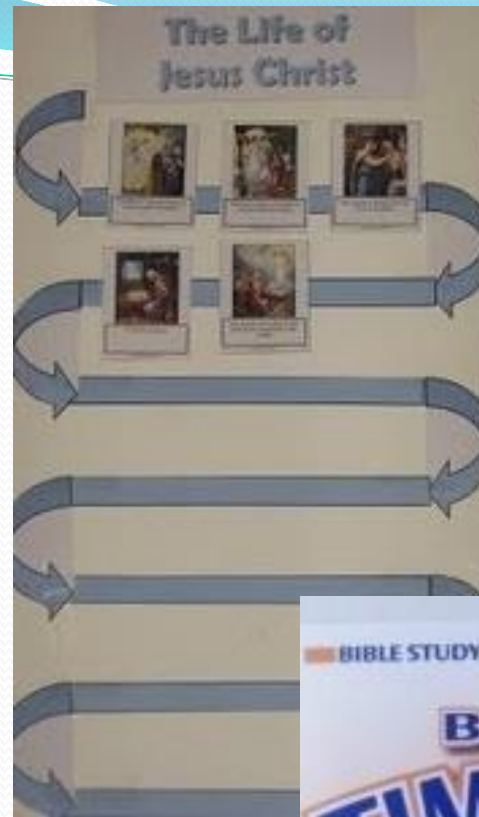


Love the Lord and be ready to do what He asks.

Related to Wisdom: Bible Literacy

- Print character ID Card (found on the handbook CD)
- Help Sparkies know where in the Bible the biography is found (not just “the Bible says”)
- Build a classroom timeline and add each Bible biography (handbook or Large Group Lesson) as you learn it.





Be an Intentional Prepared Leader!



- Memory Games
- Small Treats or Stickers
- Understand how the children in your group learn best and find ways to help them.

What's In Your Tool Box?

- Clubber Handbook
- FlightPlan (Leader's Guidebook)
- Sparks Activity CD
- MP3 Player
- Printed Biographies
- Postcards for encouragement



Thanks for Attending!

God bless you as you serve in Sparks!

