

STARTING POINT+

helping kids start a lifetime of following Jesus

SAMPLE OF FACILICATOR'S GUIDE

Class Purpose:

- Give kids and their parents a clear understanding of what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus.
- Equip parents to lead their child to Christ.
- See kids and parents enter a relationship with Jesus and become lifelong followers of Him.

Class Materials: (**included with materials*)



Suggested format is for kids and their parents to sit at tables.

- *sign-in sheet (ready to print)
- name tags
- *media graphics, videos and music to place in your presentation software (PowerPoint, Pro Presenter, Media Shout, Keynote, etc.)
- *pre-class activity page for each child (ready to print)
- pens/pencils/crayons
- *Starting Point Class handout for each child (ready to print)
- cup for each table/group
- ping pong ball for each table/groups
- 4-5 empty paper plates
- restaurant receipt
- box of cereal
- piece of fruit
- whip
- crown of thorns
- hammer and 3 large nails
- birthday gift in a gift bag (*purchase a gift that you can give away – should be a gift that both a boy or girl would like*)
- long rope with life preserver on the end
- blue tarp or cloth


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- Starting Point packet for parents:
 - *Next Step card (ready to print)
 - *"Tips for Parents" Starting Point handout (ready to print)
 - *Baptism Class card (*if having a Baptism Class*) ready to print
- *sign-up sheet for Baptism Class (*if having Baptism Class*) ready to print
- snack and drinks (*optional*)

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MEDIA SLIDE	CONTENT (words to say are bolded)	PROPS & SUPPLIES	TIME
 <p>(song #1 - pre-class music / put on loop)</p>	<p><u>Pre-class:</u> <i>Have everything set up and ready to go 30 minutes before class starts so you can spend time talking with families as they arrive.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>parents sign in</i> ▪ <i>name tags for children and parents</i> <p><i>Kids can work on their pre-class activity page.</i></p>	<p>-materials ready per supply list</p> <p>-sign-in sheet</p> <p>-name tags</p> <p>-pre-class activity page</p>	<p>30 min</p>
<p>end music</p> 	<p><i>(class beginning)</i></p> <p>Hey, welcome to Starting Point. We're so excited that you're here! You are very special to us!</p> <p>Before class started, you were given an activity page. I'm going to come around and ask each of you a question about your page so we can get to know each other better.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Go around and ask the kids to share their name and one thing from their page.</i> 		<p>3 min</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If they came in late or didn't do the page, you can still ask them a question from the page.</i> • <i>If you have a larger class, an option is to have them share their name and one thing from their page with the people in their group.</i> • <i>After you're done, have the parents put the papers aside so the kids can focus on what's coming next.</i> 		
	<p>Parents, we're honored to spend this time with you. The reason we ask you to be here with your child is simply this...no one has more influence in your child's life than you.</p> <p>That's the way God planned it. He has called you to be the spiritual leader of your child. We're not here to take your place. We're simply here to partner with you in seeing your child become a follower of Jesus.</p> <p>When your child begins asking questions about a relationship with Jesus, it's an exciting time, but it can also be a challenging time. You may have questions like, "Is my child old enough?" or "How do I know if they're ready?"</p>		1 min



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	<p>Today, we're not only going to share with the kids what it means to follow Jesus, but we're also going to give you tools to lead your child to Jesus. I can think of no greater joy as a parent than leading your child to Jesus.</p>		
	<p>So, let's pray and we'll get started. <i>(Pray for class time.)</i></p>		1 min
	<p>Kids, at your table, you have a booklet that says "Starting Point" on the front. If you haven't picked it up yet, go ahead and do so. We'll be going through this booklet together. Grab one of the pens at your table as well, because we'll be writing and drawing in it. Parents, you can follow along with your child in their booklet.</p>		1 min
	<p>Open up your booklet to page 1 and follow along with me as I read the first part.</p> <p>"The most important decision you will ever make is to become a follower of Jesus."</p>		1 min


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	<p>You know...that's so true. It really is the most important decision you'll make in your life.</p> <p>So, here's the big question. What does it mean to follow Jesus? Today, we're going to find out.</p>		
	<p>Are you ready to go?</p> <p><i>(Let kids respond.)</i></p> <p>Cool! Then let's get started.</p> <p>There's a verse at the top of page 2. It's Romans 3:23. I'd like someone to read this verse for us.</p> <p><i>(Have a child read the verse.)</i></p> <p><i>"Everyone has sinned: we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23</i></p> <p>This verse is something you must understand. It says that everyone has sinned. Who can tell me what it means to sin?</p> <p><i>(Take some answers from the kids.)</i></p>		3 min





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	<p>Sin is <u>disobeying God</u>. Go ahead and write that in the blank on your page.</p> <p>It's things like telling a lie, disobeying your parents, getting mad at someone, stealing, etc.</p> <p>How many people does the verse say have sinned?</p> <p><i>(Let kids respond.)</i></p> <p>That's right. Everyone. That means I've sinned...you've sinned...our parents have sinned...our friends have sinned...even the nicest person you know has sinned.</p> <p>The verse says we've all missed the mark. No one is perfect except for God.</p>		
	<p>See the cup on page 2? It reminds me of a game that will help us understand the verse better.</p> <p><u>Game Instructions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Place the cup in the middle of the group.</i> • <i>The kids will take turns trying to bounce the ping pong ball off the ground/table and into the cup.</i> 	<p>-cup that says, "God is perfect" for each table</p> <p>-ping pong ball for each table</p>	<p>2 min</p>


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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Make them back away far enough so it will be almost impossible to get the ball in the cup.</i> • <i>Each child will have one opportunity.</i> • <i>If a child does happen to get the ball in the cup on the first try, have the child keep going until he or she misses.</i> • <i>When everyone has missed the cup at least once, gather the cups and ping pong balls and put them away.</i> 		
	<p>Wow! That was fun! But I noticed something. Everyone missed the cup at least once. No one had a/all perfect bounce(s).</p> <p>Talk with your parents for a minute about this question.</p> <p>Everyone missed the cup. How is this like what it says in the verse?</p> <p><i>“Everyone has sinned: we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” -Romans 3:23</i></p> <p><i>(After a minute, take a few answers from the kids.)</i></p> <p>That’s an example of what it means to sin. All of us have missed the mark and sinned. No one is perfect.</p>		5 min

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  	<p>Think about this. If you sin just one time a day...which I'm sure we all do...that's 365 sins in one year. There's no way around it. We've all sinned...many times.</p> <p>Let's look at the next page. At the top, it says "Sin Bill." Under that, there are 3 lines. I'd like you to write down at least one sin you've committed.</p> <p>Just a simple word or two. You might write down lied, disobeyed parents, stole, got mad, mean words, etc. If you need help, I'm sure your parents can help you make a long list. <i>(humor)</i></p> <p><i>(Give kids a minute to do this.)</i></p>		
	<p>Now...there's a problem...a big problem. Look at the verse on page 3, Romans 6:23.</p> <p>Can someone read that verse for us?</p> <p><i>(Have child read.)</i></p> <p><i>"The wages of sin is death..."</i> <i>Romans 6:23</i></p>		5 min

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	<p>The Bible says we owe a wage for our sin. In other words, we owe a bill for our sin. Let's illustrate this.</p> <p><u>Sin Bill illustration #1 – The Restaurant:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to one of the tables where a family is sitting. • Ask them what their favorite restaurant is. • Give them each an empty plate (symbolizing they “cleaned” their plates) and illustrate how the waiter brings a bill once they finish eating. • You can't leave without paying because you owe a bill for your meal. <p><u>Sin Bill illustration #2 – The Grocery Store:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place a box of cereal and a piece of fruit on a table up front. • Bring up two kids. One is the shopper and one is the cashier. • Illustrate how you must pay for items you purchase at the grocery store. • You can't leave without paying because you owe a bill for your items. 	<p>-paper plates for one family -food receipt</p> <p>-box of cereal -piece of fruit</p>	
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