



Bible Club

HOW TO START

2014-2015 EDITION



Cindy Daigle
 350 Hwy 165
 Iowa, La. 70647
 337-842-8296

I would like to thank you for considering allowing Kids for Christ Bible Club to meet at your school. *(This handbook, take home forms & T-Shirts can be edited to show the school name.)*

Kids for Christ is a Christian club with a spotless 15 year history. It is a student lead club geared toward any Kindergarten through Fifth grade student. It is Biblically based and open to all Christian denominations.

The club meets before school and it is on a strictly volunteer basis. Permission slips are sent out to the parents for their consent. The club is independent from the school and only meets there, so it falls under current Equal Access



Law, but it also goes the extra effort of being voluntary & student lead. The Club gives fifth grade students the opportunity to lead and assist as the adult facilitator who oversees & conducts the meetings. The 5th grade students lead through opening prayer and in several other ways listed in the How To Guide. The 5th grade volunteer students help the meetings to such an advantage that the Club facilitator is able to handle the meetings with no other school staff required. *(Though school will often appoint an employed but sponsor who provides oversight to protect the schools interest. "Off the clock" the school sponsor is very helpful for administrating the permission slips & T-Shirt forms.)*

The clubs roots began at J.I Watson in Iowa over 15 years. Nearly 10 years ago Dr. Jill Portier, who was the new Principal at the newly built, LeBleu Elementary, allowed me to start the program at the newest elementary school in Calcasieu Parish. (Mrs. Portier has recently been promoted to a supervisory role at the school board after being crowned State Principal of the Year for 3 years.) Ms. Carmen Lopez has stepped in to Mrs. Portier's place as the school's principal. The program at LeBleu currently has over 260 students. Teachers & students both look forward to the weekly club meetings. *The photos are of the meetings from LeBleu and J.I. Watson.*



Ms. Amy Henry has worked with Mrs. Ogea, Principal at J.I. Watson, to take the helm this year of the Bible Club Program and converted it to a Kids for Christ Bible Club format. The Club has already doubled its student involvement since changing to the Kid's for Christ format. In January of 2014, Pastor Micah Brabham began a brand new Kids for Christ Bible Club at the school in Bell City. In just a few weeks he has seen great response from parents & students. There has been a growing interest in beginning Kids for Christ programs at several school locations. We are doing our part to pass along how to do this successful program to other communities and willing club facilitators.

I welcome you, if you would like, to visit the program at LeBleu so you can experience for yourself what can be done. Principal Lopez graciously allows guest, who would like to observe the Club first hand at LeBleu. Feel free to contact me with any questions you need answered or to schedule a time to come and see for yourself.

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Sincerely,

Cindy Daigle
 Kids for Christ
 337-842-8296

SIMPLE STEPS **How to start a Kids for Christ Before School Bible Club**

Time investment is usually one hour or less per week

Time actually on site at the school is 30-45 min. one morning per week.

Normally completed before 8 am. (Depends upon when school starts.)

The average is 25-30, meetings per year.

2 additional days at the beginning of the year to order t-shirts, Bibles, object lesson & plans.

LeBleu School has 260 kids in the program.

J.I. Watson switched to Kids for Christ format in Dec. 2013 had 150 students out of 487 in 6 wks.

Bell City began a new club, had 60 students of 280 total Student body enrollment in 6 wks.

40% of these kids have no home church and enjoy the teaching they receive.

Step 1 PRAY!!

- Then Get Familiar with the program format by reading the handbook.

Step 2 Make Contact

- Contact school principal and send Info packet to them requesting permission for a before school Bible Club program on campus. (May need to check with Local School Board Policy. If so forward the information along with a letter to the school Board Superintendent) When permission is given get set up.

Step 3 Get set up

- Meet with the staff that will assist you. Secretary, Bookkeeper, & school sponsor.
- Get school bell times, sign in procedures, meeting room.
- Ask that Kids for Christ Permission forms & T-shirt orders be handed to all students K-5
- Have School Bookkeeper set up a Club Account
- Give 2 weeks to get forms back
- Ask school bookkeeper about procedures for ordering t-shirts, object lesson incentives & Bibles
- Hold 1-2 orientation meetings with only 5th grade student leaders to train them.

Step 4 FULL LAUNCH

- Bring T-Shirts to school 1-2 days before the Launch meeting (Wrap t-shirt & Order form with rubber band, sort by teachers so they can easily be given by the school.
- Have school announce meeting time & day
- Go to school and hold the first meeting
- Usually the 1st meeting will just be orientation
- Have the office call 5th Grade Kids for Christ Students to the room.
- Meet with 5th graders 15 min before
 - Do a devotion with them
 - Prayer Circle
 - Ask for volunteers for helper assignments. (We take turns)
 - Get CD Player & turn on song
 - Lead opening Prayer
 - Put items in baskets & stand as place markers
 - Ask the office to make the announcement for "all Kids for Christ Students to please report to ___ room"
 - Door Greeters
 - Clean up
- Begin year with 10 commandment picture lessons
- Release students by grade (Youngest first) in time to be at classes when bell rings.



Bible Club How To Handbook

Kids for Christ is a Christian club for any kindergarten through fifth grade student. The club holds meetings, students may attend on a voluntary basis before school starts. The club is not a chartered, centralized organization. It is simply a proven successful & legal system that you can also use to gather with kids and teach them Biblical principles at a convenient location.

Students are given weekly Bible lessons can also invite guest speakers from the area. Speakers often feature various Children's Ministry Art forms such as puppet shows, music & object lessons. The club may also help organize the yearly **See You at the Pole** prayer event & **National Day of Prayer** event for the school. The Bible Club is student led and student run. **Kids for Christ** is Biblically based and is open to all denominations.

Club Days, Times and Grades:

The Club Organizer or school principal may choose to have either a single large group with all grades present or smaller groups divided by grades. Such as the example below:

Wednesday 7:30 – 7:45 Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd & 3rd grades
Thursday 7:30 – 7:45 4th & 5th grades

Yearly Events :

See you at the Pole

See you at the Pole is a national event held on the 3rd Wednesday in September each year at schools all over the nation. *See You at the Pole* is all about prayer. Students gather to simply connect with God in prayer and connect with fellow Christians in unity around the flag pole before school starts. It also connects Christian students together at the beginning of the school year.

To participate students simply join in **Wednesday, at 7:30 a.m., GATHER** at the school flagpole. **PRAY** for school, friends, families, and world. **CONNECT**.

National Day of Prayer :

- National Day of Prayer is observed in the United States on May 1st each year. It is held on the first Thursday of May each year, inviting people to pray for the nation and its leaders.

Protecting the Bible Club, School, Student and Parental rights

The questions are:

How do we inform parents so their right to govern their child's education is not infringed without opening a difficulty that would inhibit the right of the club or infringe on the school?

Answer:

- Every child is sent home with a permission slip.

How do we not infringe on the rights of citizens to meet on public property?

Answer:

- Meetings are held before school begins under Equal Access.

How do we protect the school from liability risk?

Answer:

- Maintain evidence of the parental consent.
- The School retains control over Club Sponsors and may reject Club Organizers

How can we monitor whether every child attending any meeting over the course of the year has a signed permission slip and not do harm to their right to potential participation?

Answer:

- The school maintains permission slips & uses field trip procedures to control which students will be allowed to attend club meetings.

What are some options for providing evidence of parental consent?

Permission Forms

- A form that is completed by the parent that discloses to the parent the nature of the club function and invites voluntary participation. It is legal evidence that the parent is aware of their child's potential involvement in the activity that happens before school begins.
- If a child should go to a meeting after school starts and did not have one on file; then the school could be concerned, but since the club meets before school it is primarily under the legal right of the EQUAL ACCESS LAW.
- The student loses the freedom to attend unless they return a permission slip.
- School uses its current 'field trip' procedures to monitor which students are permitted to go to Club meetings. Essential for large groups.

All parents should receive a permission slip Because of the strict volunteer nature of the club and that the club is religious it cannot be prohibited or enabled by the government school under the 1st amendment which guarantees religious freedom.

Using an information / permission slip clearly demonstrates knowledge & intent on the part of the parent. It shows that students have parental consent to attend at their discretion. The information form also retains the potential participation and religious freedom of all students and protects the school. The signed slips are kept on file for and by the school for added measure.

How to for Bible Clubs

The Weekly MEETINGS

Small rooms / groups 50 or less

Large rooms / 50 or more

Each school principal will help select the best place for you to meet with the kids. Please respect their choices and keep a thankful attitude for the opportunity to use the facilities and trust God.

Leading with 5th Grade Officer-helpers

OFFICERS:

Officers are helpers and it is open to any 5th grade student who wants to be an officer. They help by volunteering to do the duties that make the club run very smoothly.

ALL 5th Grade students are allowed to serve as a Officer-helpers

- It does not scrutinize who can serve.
- There is no limit in how many may serve.

The advantages of this option are it creates a more desirable environment among them, so you may retain more students. Also by not assigning specific tasks to designated officers, the club is not at a loss if students are late or absent.

Duties Officer-Helpers volunteer to do: (*We encourage them to take turns*)

- Invite and schedule guest speakers from the Kids for Christ Club guest list
 - Relay the confirmations back to the Facilitator to write on the Calendar
- Suggest guest speakers by providing their name and phone number to the Facilitator
- Attend all meetings. (Especially if meeting more than once a week)
- Ask the office to make any announcements for Kids for Christ Club
- Stand at the door to greet the students coming to the Bible club
- Open and Close the Bible Club in prayer
- Help the students sit in rows according to their grade & be attentive
- May serve in other ways during meeting times such as.
 - Officers can set up & start the CD player in the morning

- Hand out object lessons prizes
- May also learn children's ministry arts such as skits, puppets or sign language songs to perform for the students during the meeting. At the end of the year they are asked to share with the whole group how Kids for Christ helped their faith. What they learned from being in the club. They are also given a gift for serving during the year.

Being an Officer-Helper offers 5th graders opportunity to develop early leadership skills as they serve. Any 5th grade student interested in helping can do so. Your training can help them learn these important skills as they begin to exercise natural leadership leanings.

SMALL GROUP & LARGE GROUP PLANS

When you begin you may have some restrictions that may reduce the amount of students who attend. Facilities, student body size, newness of the club. If your group is small in the beginning then you may be able to utilize a small group plan. The time restriction before school will always push you toward a large group format since any discussions between you and individual students will devour your time quickly. The use of object lesson handouts & T-Shirts will cause rapid growth in your group size and the need to move to a large group plan may happen quickly. If you are interested in keeping a smaller group setting you may want to include an after school program where time limits are not as severe.

Large Group Meeting Plan:

The student enrollment of your school creates the potential. We begin with a plan that prepares for 60% of the student body. Once you know your student body count then you can anticipate a group of 60% within the 1st year. You may experience explosive growth and reach that number very quickly. If your group has the potential to grow to hundreds, you must move to a large Group format.

Excellent organization is a must to be effective in this very short 10 min time frame. Once you are moving 100-300 kids in and out of a room your time can easily be used up leaving no time for the presentation. To avoid that from happening the 5th graders will help carry out an efficient flow of students in & out of the room. Groups any larger will need to be divided into separate meetings. For instance, K-2nd on one day & 3-5th on a separate day. You would request some of your 5th grade officers to be available on the younger grade meeting day.

5th Grade Officer-helper Volunteer tasks for a Large group format meeting

- One to open in prayer
- 2 to get the CD player & start music after announcement made
- Students sit in rows by grade order with the Kindergarten in the front
- 8 to stand at end and start of each grade for row placement
- One to contact office to make the club starting announcement
- 8-10 to hand out novelties
- Several may elect to do hand motions with the song
- The 5th graders who are on a task stand across the back of the room.
- Children do continue to arrive after the meeting has begun. The 5th graders near the door will point them to their places.

Leading the arrival song

5th graders get the CD player from stored location, plug in & start a children's God's Top Ten praise song on loudest clear setting.. Play the same song every meeting so kids can learn words by the end of the year. Have some of the 5th graders stand in front to clap, do hand motions and sing along with the words as students come in. Once all the kids arrive. Introduce the volunteer to lead in prayer. You may choose to make a poster of the lyrics it will help kids sing along as they arrive and learn them..

Open in prayer

Once all the student are seated by grades with Kindergarten closest to the front, then 1st on the next rows & so on. Turn off the music & welcome them. Introduce the 5th grader who will lead the prayer. When they are finished, thank them and introduce your guest speaker or the lesson you will teach them.

The 5th graders standing on the row ends will help remind students to be attentive by simply looking at the child who has become disruptive and putting finger to their own mouth to make the sign for silence and pointing to the guest speaker. *(You will teach them this in the orientation and may have to remind them periodically.)*

The 5th graders who have the red & white pails (or bags) with the novelties will begin handing them to the students when they are asked to; starting from each end of the rows. The students are not allowed to trade colors and may only trade out a damaged item.

The alarm on my cell phone is set to remind me when it is time to dismiss. I quickly wrap up and say a closing prayer relating to the message. Then only allow one grade at a time to stand up and leave the room orderly and quietly to return to where the school normally has them before the bell rings for classes to start. You must allocate more time for this with larger groups. BE aware that you will quickly & rightly, get on bad terms with the school if you disrespect the time and behavior the school must retain.

KEEPING Their Attention:

Work with your school. There are many useful techniques they may already be using they can share with you for respectfully gaining the attention of the students. Schools often have techniques the students already respond too. Ask how they gain the students attention if they become noisy.

REMEMBER: Yelling, anger, demeaning sarcasm are destructive and never allowed. Always look for ways to regain their attention if you lose it. A distinct hand clapping rhythm they will repeat is a useful tool. Be Prepared! Make sure you keep the program moving along.

Bibles

Encouraging faith is done best by introducing regular Bible Study habits. Helping families afford their child's first Bible is an important step. International Bible Society is a valuable resource. We include the option to order a NIV Children's Bible on the permission and T-Shirt order form. We set the price for the Bibles at COST so that every child is given full opportunity to buy one. Another option is to find sponsors to purchase them for the children. But they must all be either free or charged for.

Lessons

In a multi denominational environment doctrine that is common to all Christians is important. Proselyting toward a particular doctrine would not be beneficial to the families who entrust them into your care.

The lessons need to be FOUNDATIONAL since many of the kids do not get to attend church anywhere. Short but helpful lessons about the Bible, the 10 Commandments, the Cross, Prayer, salvation, forgiveness are good subjects to teach. Visual aids like poster size pictures, video clips, skits...any kind of visual aids will help.

With only 10-12 minutes to make an effective point, lessons need help. A very helpful tool is **Object Lesson Novelty Prizes**. These can be purchased online from Oriental Trading Co. or other online suppliers as well as local party supply stores. with the Club funds received from the T-Shirts. Kids love the novelty prizes and will tell other kids about the club. This will increase your group and give you more opportunity to reach more kids with the Gospel.

Guest Speakers

Using visual aids, ministry art forms such as puppets, object lessons, posters, video presentations, audio tools. There are many, many resources to inspire your teaching efforts. Also find those in your area who

have already honed a presentation technique and invite them to come as a special guest. We look for area Children's Ministries that are willing to come and share their talented presentations with the group. Some area Pastors have ministry skills for reaching the hearts of Children. We look for age appropriate ministries to come and present to the Bible club. Check with area churches to find them and invite them to come.

Funding

The funding comes from the orders sent home with students to buy the optional Bibles & T-Shirts. The Bibles are always at cost. The T-shirt price is set a little above cost. We suggest you have them printed by a Local T-Shirt Company. The more ordered the lower the cost in larger quantities. So often the printing price originally quoted will drop as the ordered amount increases giving us a greater surplus income. That income is used to purchase inexpensive novelties to use for lessons. The kids love getting these and they provide a reminder of the lesson they can explain to family & friends. You can charge a little extra for the T-Shirt to cover the extra expenses. Your group will grow quickly once word of these prizes gets around. You will then have more opportunity to reach more kids with the Gospel. You must submit your items to be ordered for approval to the school principal.

T-Shirts

We keep the same shirt design each year so parents do not have to buy new shirts every year and can pass them on to younger kids. The School may allow them to wear their shirts instead of their uniforms on meeting days. We use white lettering on a red shirt. The T Shirt design is on the last 2 pages. Sometimes a school may request a different color.

(This company has the current design and can readily add your school name)

Pro-Screen (Joe & Sheila) 588-4208 Lacassine, La.

Book Keeping

Once permission slips, orders & monies are received by the in-school sponsor, (The Principal choice), the monies from the orders will be posted by the school bookkeeper.

PURCHASING:

The Order forms are counted and a **purchase order** is written to purchase the T-shirts, Bibles & lesson novelties. The bookkeeper will keep & disperse funds for you through a **Purchase Order** or you may pay for them upfront and be reimbursed. If you use a purchase order you will need to give COMPLETE information and website info to the school personnel who will facilitate the purchase. Be patient GIVE THEM AMPLE TIME. Be patient. Always get items you intend to purchase approved before completing an order. Always respect the right of the principal to reject any item you may have chosen to use.

Resource Links

WWW.Orientaltrading.com - *Object lesson Novelties*

WWW.IBS.org - *International Bible Society for Bibles*

WWW.Childevangelismfellowship - *Curriculum & training*

WWW.Gideons.org - *New Testament Bibles*

Local T-Shirt printer



PERMISION SLIP & T-SHIRT/Bible Order

Form:

Child's NAME _____ Grade _____

Teacher's Name _____ (return by 9/22/14)

Amount Paid \$ _____

*****ONE FORM PER STUDENT PLEASE**

Check Items you want to order and write size:

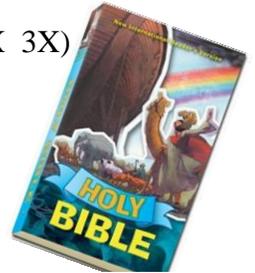
\$ 13.00 _____ I would like to order T-shirt (size _____) (add \$1 for Adult 2X 3X)

\$ 5.00 _____ I would also like to order the NIV Children's Bible

(Make Check PAYABLE TO THE SCHOOL NAME you may write KFC on the memo line)

T-Shirt Sizes

Youth X-Sm Sm Med Lg
Adult Sm Med Lg 1X (add \$1 for 2X 3X)



Front



Back

\$5.00 NIV Children's Bible

Written especially for children. Clean, easy-to-read Bible with 24 color insert Bible illustrations and call-out scripture passages. Special helps in front introduce kids to the story of the Bible and give a short overview of each book of the Bible. Bright cover art draws kids to reading. Easy-to-carry soft cover edition. Ideal for children ages 6-10. 1,316 pages. (5-1/4" x 8")

------(cut here)-----

PERMISSION SLIP

Dear Parents,

Student Name: _____

Grade _____ Age _____

The Kid's for Christ Bible Club is glad to let you know that it is meeting at _____

Kids for Christ is a voluntary Christian club for any kindergarten through fifth grade student.

- Students enjoy the fun as Kid's for Christ helps teach & encourage their faith.
- So many parents appreciate that the values they hold most dear are being encouraged while their children are away from them.
- Students feel safe as they experience a friendly, caring atmosphere in their learning environment that last through the day at school.
- Character values you teach them such as the kindness, truth, patience & self-control, Christ also taught, are supported weekly.
- They experience positive peer pressure since it is student led and student run.

Students organize leaders who invite guest speakers from the area. Speakers often feature various Children's Ministry Art forms such puppet shows, music & exciting object lessons. The club also helps organize the yearly **See You at the Pole** prayer event & **National Day of Prayer** for any student who wants to attend. **Kids for Christ** is Biblically based and is open to all denominations.

When & where does it happen?

Students come to meetings on a strictly voluntary basis. The club meets weekly from _____ - _____ a.m. before school begins in room _____. The volunteer adult facilitator is _____. Please fill in the information below & return. The school's Club sponsor is _____. Club start date is _____. **Club T Shirts may be worn on club**

Location

Facilitator Name

I, _____, give permission for _____ to attend Kid's For Christ.
(Legal guardian's Name) (Child's Name)

Guardian's Information:

Guardian's Signature: _____ Phone Number: _____ DATE ____/____/____

God has not given us
a spirit of *timidity (that's Fear)*, but
He has given us a Spirit of

***Love*, Power &
SELF-DISCIPLINE**

-2 Timothy 1:7

Kids
for
Christ