

Leader's Guide
GLOW JR

JAN-APR 2021
CHILDREN'S CHURCH CURRICULUM

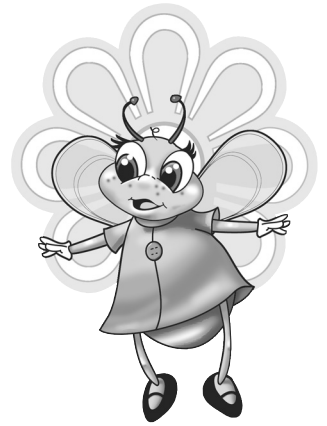


Glow Jr. Leader's Guide

January-April 2021



This Leader's Guide is written to assist you as you train children to develop Christ-like character. The components in this Guide are only suggestions. You are the teacher that your pastor and the Lord entrusted with your class. You know the needs and issues of your students much better than curriculum writers ever could. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as you choose which components to use, adapt or leave out entirely.



All Scripture is taken from the King James Bible.

This book is meant to assist in teaching children, and all pages are reproducible for the purpose of aiding the ministries within your local church.

Below is a brief description of the components included with each lesson. The components and schedule incorporate a variety of teaching methods and activities. Some components are essential while others are optional. Tailor the program to suit the needs of your situation.



Let's Get Glowing with a game

These are suggested transition games. Often, students are moving from Sunday school class into Jr. Church while others are just arriving. Having a planned activity will eliminate many behavioral issues that accompany transition times.



Spotlight on Songs, welcome and prayer

Music plays many roles in a worship service. It focuses attention on the Lord. It also gladdens the heart and creates an atmosphere for worship. The songs are suggested to accompany each theme.



Torch Bearer's Tales of missionary heroes

These are stories from seasoned missionaries, past and present. These stories are meant to inspire the students and to show them how faithful our God is, especially to those who serve Him with their lives. They are written to have a 'cliff-hanger' ending each week to encourage students to come back and hear the rest of the story.



Light My Path with a memory verse

Each Christ-like character trait has a corresponding verse. The students will work to memorize one verse per month. Each week will have a suggested memory verse memorization game or activity. Spending several weeks on each verse will enable students to really learn the verse and let it be a lamp unto their feet and a light unto their paths.



Spark Their Interest with a funny skit

The first week of the month, a new Christ-like character trait will be introduced. Each week following will review the character trait and also incorporate how it applies to the traits being taught in the Glow Jr. devotionals. The traits will be introduced through dialogue written in script form. You may perform the skit with two puppets, a puppet and a leader, a special 'guest'* and a leader, or simply between two leaders. Using a variety of techniques is always best.

*Suggestions for 'guest' speakers: Simple props and a funny accent can make these visits a favorite part of any children's service. The goal is for the leader to teach the guest about the character trait, while the 'simpleton' of a guest asks ridiculous questions.

Nate, the Knight—wears a helmet and rides a stick horse

Mrs. Crock-pot—(or was that Crack-pot) an apron and oven mitts

Gary, the Gardner—straw hat, toy rake and pockets full of seeds

Fred, the Fisherman—carries fishing pole and gummy worms

Character Trait Teaching Calendar

Themes for Jan-Feb 2021

Names of God

Jan. 3: Elohim Feb. 7: Jehovah Shammah
 Jan. 10: Jehovah Feb. 14: El Nehkumah
 Jan. 17: Adonai Feb. 21: Jehovah Rophe
 Jan. 24: El Shaddai Feb. 28: Jehovah El Emeth
 Jan. 31: Jehovah Jireh

These lesson themes correspond to the weekly themes in the Jan-Feb issue of Glow Jr. Devotions for Kids.

Themes for March-April 2021

Touched by Jesus

Mar. 7: Salvation Apr. 4: Atonement
 Mar. 14: Truthful Apr. 11: Faith
 Mar. 21: Clean Apr. 18: Servant's heart
 Mar. 28: Self-control Apr. 25: Accepting

These lesson themes correspond to the weekly themes in the March-April issue of Glow Jr. Devotions for Kids.



Build the Fire *in their hearts with Bible lessons*

The goal is to develop Christ-like character based on the absolute truths found in God's Word. Many places try to teach 'character education,' but without a foundation in Biblical standards, their so-called education is changeable and relative to situations. Each Glow Jr. lesson will demonstrate how God built character into His people and how Christ exemplified character during His life on earth. Each lesson will also provide application suggestions to show the students how they can live daily with Christ-like character.



Fan the Flames *and make the lesson memorable*

Each lesson will provide suggested object lessons — using an everyday item to repeat the point of the lesson. Lessons will also include visual aid suggestions — simple props that will grab and hold the attention of your students. Studies have proven that repetition is the key to learning. Studies also prove that when a teacher engages as many of the five senses as possible during teaching, students are more likely to retain the information.



Fire Off the Answers *to the review questions*

A Bible review game is a great way to review the lesson and one more way to reemphasize your main point. Simple instructions will be included for one game each month. We also suggest using materials by Ed Dunlop. They can be ordered on-line by going to www.talesofcastles.com.

At-A-Glance Schedule



Let's Get Glowing

5-10 minutes

These games are for transition time only. Be sure to begin your service on time.



Spotlight on Songs

12-15 minutes

Welcome, recognize visitors, sing, pray. Bring the children's focus to church.



Torch Bearer's Tales

10-12 minutes

Practice these stories in advance and be able to tell the story without reading it.



Light My Path

5-8 minutes

One verse each month, a variety of ideas for memorizing it.



Spark Their Interest

5-8 minutes

Use this funny way to introduce the theme of the day.



Build the Fire

15-18 minutes

This is the main focus. Give it all the time it needs.



Fan the Flames

5-10 minutes

Teach separately, or incorporate into Build the Fire.



Fire Off the Answers

5-15 minutes

Review the lesson. Use the questions included or your own.

Closing and Dismissal

ELOHIM

Glow Jr. Devotions: January 3-9



THEME VERSE: Psalm 9:10 "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, has not forsaken them that seek thee."

CHARACTER FOCUS: God is Creator, therefore I can TRUST Him

MONTHLY GOAL: For students to grow in love and reverence for God by getting to know Him through some of His names

Let's Get Glowing

Sleeping Soundly

Place a chair in the front of the room so that the person sitting in it will have his back to the other students. Place a set of keys under the chair. Choose a child to volunteer to be asleep in the chair. Quietly tap another child who will attempt to sneak up and take the keys out from under the chair without the sleeping one hearing him. If he makes it back to his seat, the 'sleeper' has three chances to guess who the 'raider' was. If he guesses the right person, that student becomes the 'sleeper'. If not, the 'raider' is revealed, and he continues to be the 'sleeper'.

Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing ***My God is so BIG***

Sing ***This is the day***

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing ***Trust and Obey***

Torch Bearer's Tales

The candlelight was dim in his tent. Mosquito netting hung limply from a hook on the ceiling of the hut and draped itself in loose folds around the gaunt frame of the young missionary. As he poured over the hand-written manuscripts, he occasionally swatted at an intrusive mosquito that had wriggled its way through the net.

David Livingstone
The Pathfinder

The sight was kind of eerie. Even from a distance the thatch-roofed hut seemed to glow from the dim candlelight. The loosely-fitted reeds and woven twigs that made up the walls of his home, hardly seemed an appropriate protection from prowling lions.

Drops of sweat fell from the brow of the laboring missionary only to splat on the parchment in front of him - smudging the ink. The document over which he poured was written with his own hand. It was an alphabet of sorts - something of his own invention. It was the language of the Bakwena people, the People of the Crocodile. These wandering souls were steeped in mysticism and idolatry. They called themselves the People of the Crocodile because that is the animal they revered as a god. They worshipped it.

The missionary had been among these people only three months, but already he was beginning to get a grasp of their language. He had labored intensely night after night, aided only by the flickering light of the candle, pronouncing their words and practicing their intonation. He felt he could grasp their language with just a little more time. He must keep studying. These dear people needed to hear the glorious Gospel of Christ!

The young man shuddered and pulled the cloak tighter around his shoulders. In contrast to the blazing heat of the day, the nights were cool here on the African savanna. He took a break from his study and rose from the table. A glance at the

small fire outside the door of his hut told him that it needed some attention. It was down to a few coals. He had so deeply engrossed himself in his manuscripts that he had forgotten the small fire, and it had nearly gone out! He knew he must rekindle it if it was going to be a deterrent to the wild beasts.

The missionary grabbed a handful of twigs from the pile he had neatly stacked along the wall of his hut, and placed them over the coals in the shape of a tee pee. He knelt beside the tiny fire and with several gentle breaths, coaxed it into an open flame. The young man sat back on his heels for a moment and stared into the fire. As the flames consumed the dry tinder and turned it to ash, a tear trickled down the dusty cheek of the missionary, leaving a tiny trail in the dust on his face. He thought of the dear Bakwena people and how they were dying and going to Hell, to suffer in flames for all eternity. He must learn their language so he could tell them of Christ -- so he could offer them the gift of salvation through faith in the Lord. "For by grace are ye saved, through faith..." This was the story he had to tell!

He arose from beside the fire and returned to the tiny desk beneath the mosquito net in his hut. He had only recently recovered, due to the grace of God, from a terrible bout with malaria, and he was still very weak. In spite of the cool evening, sweat continued to pour from his face. "Lo, I am with you always ... Lo, I am with you always ..." These words gave the young missionary hope to carry on.

He worked on the language long into the night, and the dark of night was turning in the light of dawn when the young man, David Livingstone, finally blew out the candle and lay down to sleep.



Light My Path

Write the verse on inflated balloons that are tacked to a bulletin board, one or two words per balloon. Read the verse through once. Use a pin, and perhaps a student volunteer to pop one balloon. Reread the verse. Continue popping balloons and reciting the verse until all the balloons are popped.

Verse for the Month

Psalm 9:10 "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, has not forsaken them that seek thee."



Spark Their Interest

Leader: Good morning class! We are starting a new theme today. For the next several weeks we will be learning about the names of God. God actually has several names. We won't even be able to talk about all of them in 7 weeks.

Guest: Oh! I know lots of names.

Leader: Well I bet you don't know the name we are talking about today.

Guest: John, Larry, Matthew, Joe, Kevin, Ian, Ryan, Fred, Daniel, Walter, Blake, Caleb?

Leader: None of those. The name of God we are talking about today is "Elohim."

Guest: Nope, I wouldn't have guessed that.

Leader: Did you know that names have meanings? We are going to learn about who God is by learning what His names mean.

Guest: What does my names mean? I bet it means "super, awesome, amazing person!"

Leader: Well, I don't know what your name means, but I do know what Elohim means and if you take our seat I can teach my lesson about it.

Guest: Wait, tell me what you think my name means first.

Leader: Okay, my guess is that your name probably means "silly person who likes to look at my lessons and won't sit down."

Guest: Alright, I can take a hint. I'll sit down now.



Build the Fire

When you are introduced to a new person, you might say something like this: "Hi. My name is [your name]. What is your name?" We are identified and remembered by our names. You probably have more than one name. There's your first name. Then your last name, which tells us what family you belong to. You probably have a middle name. Do you have a nickname? Perhaps your name is William, but your friends call you Willy. Or maybe you are a Madeline that goes by Maddie. Your nickname might describe a characteristic you have or an accomplishment, like Speedy or Champ.

We each have names, but we also have titles that describe us. Words like son or daughter, brother or

sister are titles that describe our relationship to others. Other titles might include aunt or uncle, miss or mister, grandchild, niece or nephew. You are just one person, but you have many names and titles. We can learn a lot about you by learning your names and titles.

God is no different. God has many names and titles. The Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek. As the Bible was translated into English, many of God's names were simply translated as 'God' or 'Lord.' Our next series of lessons is going to introduce us to some of God's Hebrew names. Why do you think it is important to learn about God's names? Just as we can learn about you by knowing your names and titles, we can learn about God and His character by knowing His names. The more we learn about God, the more we will trust Him. Psalm 9:10 says, "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee:"

Today, we will start with the very first name of God we find in the Bible. It is found in the first book, Genesis, the first chapter and the first verse! "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." In this verse, 'God' is used in place of the Hebrew word 'Elohim.' It is pronounced 'El-o-heem.' Elohim means strong, mighty, powerful creator. The very first thing we learn about God is that He is the Creator and He made the whole world. Every star and planet, every tree and flower, every bird and fish, every mammal and insect, and every person is created by Elohim, God the Creator. Nothing happened by chance or a big bang. Every detail was masterfully planned, ordered and created by God.

Isaiah 44:24 says, "Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;" God made everything, including you! Not only that, God continues to keep His creation in order. The sun, moon and stars all maintain their orbit because God keeps them. The seasons happen, plants grow, all of life continues because God preserves it. Nehemiah 9:6 says, "Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all the host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee." (See also Psalm 33:6-9.)

Elohim, the strong, mighty, powerful Creator God,

made all things and keeps all things. That is important to know. How does knowing that God is Elohim help you trust Him more?

First, you can trust that God is in control of all things. And it really is ALL things. Does God control the weather? Yes. So if it is raining, God meant for it to rain. Does God control governments? Yes (See Romans 13:1-7). The rulers of your town, state and country are there because God meant for them to be. Does God control diseases? Yes, God even controls sickness and disease. God is never surprised, makes mistakes, or does something 'on accident.' He always has a plan and a purpose. He is in control. And for that, we can trust Him.

Secondly, you can trust that God created each of you just right. Do you have blue eyes or brown? Do you have red hair or blonde? Do you have a tiny nose? Or big feet? Do you have dark skin or light? Every single thing about you was chosen for you by Elohim, God the Creator. That means that every single part of you is just right. It is just the way God wanted it to be for you. Do not complain about how tall or short you are. You are exactly the size God made you, and He made you that way on purpose. You are God's workmanship. You are His masterpiece. Isaiah 43:1 says, "But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine." You can trust that Elohim, Creator God, made you just right.

Finally, you can trust that God's plan is best. Elohim made the whole universe. He keeps it and preserves it. He made you and chose everything about you. You are His masterpiece, and He has a way He wants you to go. God's plan for His creation is revealed through His Word, the Bible. The Bible is the Guidebook, the Instruction Manual for how to live. God has a plan for each of His cherished creations. God's plan is for every person to come to Him through salvation in Jesus Christ. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

You see, even though God created all things perfectly, including man, it did not remain perfect. Sin corrupted the world through Adam's disobedience. But God created a way to redeem His creation, through the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus Christ. God loves His children, and it has always been His plan to rescue them from sin. Elohim, God the strong, mighty and powerful Creator has a plan for your life. You can trust that His plan is best.

God's name, Elohim, teaches us that God is the Creator of all. The mountains, the rivers, the stars, animals and people are all part of God's creative masterpiece of the universe. Everywhere you look, you will see God's handiwork. The prophet Jeremiah said it this way, "Ah Lord GOD! Behold thou has made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:" (Jeremiah 32:17). Because God is our Elohim, our Creator, we can trust Him.

Fan the Flames

1. Name Tags. Use 'Hello, My Name Is _____' stickers to talk about the importance of a name. We each want our name spelled correctly, pronounced correctly and used when someone is talking to us. We are protective of our names because they identify us. God also has names, more than you can probably imagine. We can learn much about God by studying His names.

2. Bring craft supplies to 'create' a project while the students watch. (You could even supply students with craft supplies to create their own 'masterpieces.') I am going to use these materials to create a masterpiece. (It can be anything, cut out a snowflake, draw a picture, glue shapes together.) Here it is, my creation! Can I make it come to life? No. Did I create the supplies I used to make it? No. I simply changed my supplies into something else. But God, Who is Elohim, the Creator, made everything from nothing! He spoke, and the world came into existence. He is the strong, mighty and powerful Creator, and we trust Him.

Write additional review questions here:



Fire Off the Answers

1. Why are names important? (they identify, characterize)
2. What name of God did we learn today? (Elohim)
3. What does Elohim mean? (strong, mighty, powerful Creator)
4. Where is God's name, Elohim, first used? (Genesis 1:1)
5. According to Psalm 9:10, what is the response to knowing God's name? (to trust Him)

Snowball Fight

The game commences with six "snowballs" on each team's side of a table. Players draw game cards allowing them to hurl a specified number of snowballs to the other team's side. Each game consists of just four quick questions, and two wins out of three take the match.

Items Needed:

Snowballs: It could be sheets of paper crumpled into "snowballs," cotton balls, marshmallows, or white puff balls from a craft store.

Make two copies of the 'Snowflake Cards' on pages 72-73. Cut on the thick, black line. Fold on the middle, dotted line so that one side has a snowflake showing, and the other has a number on it.

Playing the Game:

Place six "snowballs" on each end of a table or desk, designating one as Team One's territory, and the other end as belonging to Team Two.

Keep the Snowflake game cards in hand as you ask your review questions. Each student who answers a question correctly comes forward and selects a Snowflake card. The number on the card tells how many "snowballs" they will toss into the other team's territory.

Questions must alternate between the two teams. After four questions, count the "snowballs" in each team's territory. The team that moved to most "snowballs" into the other team's territory is the winner. In the event of a tie, have a student from each team come forward and draw a game card. The student with the higher number wins the tie. On the second game, the team that went second now goes first. On the third game, reverse the sequence again.

Snowball Fight

Use during the month of January

The game commences with six “snowballs” on each team’s side of a table. Players draw game cards allowing them to hurl a specified number of snowballs to the other team’s side. Each game consists of just four quick questions, and two wins out of three take the match.

Preparing the Game

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Attendance Record

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Devotions Completed

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Leading a Child to Christ

Statistics show that 85% of all Christians received Christ between the ages of 4 and 14. As you teach children, remember that they are at an age that is 'ripe unto harvest'. When dealing with C-H-I-L-D-R-E-N, remember these guidelines:

- C** Cover each verse thoroughly and illustrate by using pictures.
- H** Have a sincere love and interest for the child. Treat the child as you would want someone to treat your child.
- I** Inquire of their understanding by asking questions before moving to the next point.
- L** Limit your vocabulary. Use familiar examples and illustrations.
- D** Define everything. Remember a child takes everything literally.
- R** Review the Plan of Salvation before you lead the child in prayer to receive Christ as their Saviour.
- E** Encourage the child to pray aloud with you.
- N** Never leave children without making sure they know what they did and giving them assurance of salvation.

After a child receives Christ as his or her Saviour, the child is to follow the Lord in baptism. No child should be baptized without parental permission. (Acrostic created and used with permission by Dr. Mike Wells, Evangelist, www.wellspublications.com).

The Plan of Salvation



Admit "I am a sinner."

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:23a

"For the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23



Believe "Jesus died and rose again for my sins."

"...while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"...how that Christ died for our sins...was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures;" I Corinthians 15:3 & 4



Call "I must receive Jesus as my Savior"

"...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23b

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13

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