

Creative Bible Lessons For Children

Balloon Blast

This series is so much more than just a bunch of hot air! Join us for some recreation-style learning through balloons. We will play games and discover life lessons from God's Word. It'll be a blast!

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Check out more books and lessons by Kolby and Mary Beth King at Smashwords.com

Introduction

Our Goal

To help students experience God's Word in a colorful, fun, surprising and creative manner; to ignite in them a hunger that leads them to dig in, crawl inside, explore, enjoy and live out God's truth.

Teaching Method

Children only remember 10% of what they hear, 20% of what they see, and 30% of what they hear and see. They are concrete learners, which means they retain 80 to 90% of what they do, touch, smell, taste, and help teach. Therefore, this curriculum is packed with a teaching style that will help them to:

Find it. Taste it. Touch it. Make it.

Know it. Grow it. See it. Show it.

Live it!

Balloon Blast

Week 1 - The Priceless Pearl

YOU WILL NEED: Balloons, a sharpie marker, at least one White Balloon.

BEFORE CLASS BEGINS

-Have balloons ready to hand to students as they enter. Most 3rd-5th graders can blow up their own balloons although they might need some help tying them.

-Have a sharpie marker and a white balloon ready.

LET'S GET STARTED

As students enter your room, give each a balloon.

Challenge #1: Tell them to begin hitting the balloon in the air as many times as they can without it hitting the floor.

Challenge #2: Challenge your kids to hit their balloon in the air, spin around, and keep hitting it without it touching the floor. Tell them every time they hit the balloon to say, "Follow Jesus."

Challenge #3: Ask your students to hit their balloons, see how many times they can clap their hands, and then continue hitting the balloon before it touches the ground. Tell them every time they hit the balloon to say,

"Follow Jesus."

SAY: When I say, "Go," I want you to put your balloon along the far wall (point to the wall furthest from your group circle), and then come sit down in a circle as fast as you can. Ready! Set! Go!

Praise students for their obedience—Who was the first to sit down, the most considerate, the biggest smile, etc. Do this quickly and then move on.

SAY—Welcome to Balloon Blast. In this class we're going to be learning some important lessons that Jesus taught and learning how to follow Jesus everyday but first I want us to get to know each other.

Pass Around #1: Show your students a white balloon. Tell them that you are going to pass it around the circle. When they get the balloon, you want them to say their name.

Pass Around #2: Pass it around the circle again but this time, go faster.

Pass Around #3: Tell them that you are going to pass the balloon the opposite direction. This time you want them to say their first and last name (two words) and try to go even faster than before.

ASK—There are two words that we want you to always remember that can change your life. What do you think those two words are? (Follow Jesus)

While you ask the following questions, take a sharpie marker and write "Follow Jesus" on a white balloon.

ASK—What does it mean to follow Jesus? How do you know if someone else is a follower of Jesus?

ASK—When you came in the room a minute ago I gave you some challenges with your balloons, are there some challenges you face when you follow Jesus? (Yes, sometimes people might tease you or make fun of you, etc.)

Pass Around #4: Tell them that you are going to pass the balloon around the circle again. This time you want them to say their first and last name and "Follow Jesus!" For example, Johnny Smith—"Follow Jesus!"

SAY—We're getting ready to hear a story that Jesus told that will help us know how to follow Him. But first, (hold up the white balloon), what is something that is white and very valuable? (The answer you want is "a pearl." Use other hints to help guide them such as: It's small. You find them in the ocean. A girl loves to get these as a present. Sometimes they hang around a girl's neck, etc.)

Read from your Bible Matthew 13:45-46

SAY—This is a parable that Jesus told.

ASK—What is a parable? (A story that illustrates or teaches a truth.)

ASK—What truth was Jesus using this story to teach?

SAY—The merchant found something in the priceless pearl that was more valuable than everything else he had. In Jesus we find something that is more important than everything else in life.

EVERYBODY SAY: "The most important thing!"

SAY—Jesus should be the most important thing in our lives.

While you talk, take a sharpie marker and write "Wal-Mart" on the white balloon.

ASK—"What is a way you can follow Jesus at Wal-Mart?" Take an answer or two.

Write "School" on the same white balloon.

ASK—"What is a way you can follow Jesus at School?" Take an answer or two.

Write "Grandma's house" on the same white balloon.

ASK—"What is a way you can follow Jesus at Grandma's house?" Take an answer or two.

KEY—Following Jesus isn't about what you say; it's about what you do... when you're at home, at school, at Wal-Mart, at ball practice, etc. And when Jesus is the most important thing in your life, people will know it's true by how you live.

PRAY that your students will always follow Jesus and have Him as the most important thing in their lives.

Balloon Blast

Week 2 - The Hidden Treasure

YOU WILL NEED: Balloons, red pieces of paper with "Jesus / is / worth / everything / Matthew / 13: / 44-46" written on seven pieces and hidden inside a bunch of balloons, extra blown-up balloons, a bag for the balloons, and your Bible.

BEFORE CLASS BEGINS

-Have balloons ready with the red slips of paper already hidden in them.

LET'S GET STARTED

Choose 1 volunteer—Tell your volunteer that you are going to see how many balloons he can hold. He can put them under his arms, under his chin, between his legs, in his hands—wherever he wants, but he can't let any of them touch the ground. As soon as he drops a balloon, count how many balloons he has and then choose another volunteer to try.

Choose another volunteer to try to hold as many balloons as possible.

SAY—In a minute we'll choose a third person to try, but first I want you to see what is happening. He does great holding one balloon but the more he adds, the more likely he is to drop one. In a similar way, people tend to fill their lives with a lot of important things but only one thing is worth everything.

ASK—What are some things that are important to you? (Family, friends, church, money, food, clothes, nice shoes, sports, etc.)

Choose another volunteer to try to hold as many balloons as possible.

While he is still holding the balloons, SAY—Some times we try to put too much in our lives. We put a bunch of good things in but we forgot what should be most important.

Finish the game.

ASK—What do you think should be the most important thing in a person's life? (Jesus.)

ASK—What do you think shows if Jesus is the most important thing in your life? (The most important thing in your life is seen by how you live and by what you seek in life.)

Read Matthew 6:33 from your Bible

ASK—What did the Bible just say we should do? (Seek first the "Kingdom of God" or the things of God.)

SAY—You'll know what is important in a person's life by what they do and by what they seek or want in life.

Treasure Hunt

SAY—We're going to play a game. In a minute I'm going to dump out a bag full of balloons. When I say, "Go," I want you to pop all of them as quickly as you can and then find all the red pieces of paper that are inside of them. You'll find seven pieces of paper. Some will tell you the point we want you to learn today. The others will give you a Bible reference that we need to look at to find a parable that Jesus told.

Dump out the balloons and then tell your kids to pop them. Once they are popped, have your kids throw away the balloon pieces and try to assembly the key point for today (Jesus is worth everything) and the Bible passage (Matthew 13:44-46).

Once they have discovered the key point and Bible passage, ask them to sit down again.

ASK—Do you agree or disagree that Jesus is worth (or more valuable or more important) than everything else in life?

SAY—Let's see what the Bible says. Last week we took a look at a parable that Jesus told.

ASK—What is a parable? (A story that illustrates or teaches a truth.)

ASK—Who remembers what last week's parable was about? (The merchant found something in the priceless pearl that was more valuable than everything else he had. In Jesus we find something that is more important than everything else in life.)

Read Matthew 13:44-46 from your Bible

SAY—I wanted you to hear last week's parable right alongside the one for tonight.

ASK—What truth was Jesus teaching through the story of the man who finds the treasure?

ASK—A moment ago you were trying to find slips of paper in the balloons but did you find anything in those balloons that you would be willing to trade your home for? To trade your car for? To trade your lunch for? (Probably not. They were just slips of paper and not worth much.)

SAY—But the man in the story found a treasure—something so valuable, so important, that it was worth him giving up everything else in his life to have it.

SAY—Jesus is the same way. In him we find something so valuable, so important, that He is worth losing everything else in life just to have Him.

EVERYBODY SAY: "The most important thing!"

EVERYBODY SAY: "Jesus!"

Try it again.

SAY—Jesus should be the most important thing in our lives.

EXTRA TIME

If you have extra time, give other student the opportunity to see how many balloons they can hold at the same time.

Balloon Blast

Week 3 - The Invitation

YOU WILL NEED: Balloons and your Bible.

BEFORE CLASS BEGINS

-Have an un-blown up balloons ready to pass out as the students enter.

LET'S GET STARTED

As students enter your room, give each a balloon.

SAY—Today we're going to find out what is more important to you. I'm going to give you two choices. For one choice I'll tell you to go to the wall on your left and hold your balloon to the wall. For the other choice you'll hold your balloon against the wall on your right. We're going to find out what you'd choose.

SAY—Everybody raise your left hand. / Everybody raise your right hand.

SAY:

If you had rather eat tacos, hold your balloon against the wall on your left.

If you had rather eat hamburgers, hold your balloon against the wall on your right.

If you had rather buy a book, hold your balloon against the wall on your left.

If you had rather buy a video game, hold your balloon against the wall on your right.

If you had rather go to church, hold your balloon against the wall on your left.

If you had rather go to a baseball game, hold your balloon against the wall on your right.

If you had rather go to school, hold your balloon against the wall on your left.

If you had rather be in the hospital, hold your balloon against the wall on your right.

If you had rather have a close friend for the rest of your life, hold your balloon against the wall on your left.

If you had rather have a million dollars, hold your balloon against the wall on your right.

If you had rather be happy, hold your balloon against the wall on your left.

If you had rather be rich, hold your balloon against the wall on your right.

If you had rather do what's right, hold your balloon against the wall on your left.

If you had rather do something wrong but be famous, hold your balloon against the wall on your right.

Tell the students to hold onto their balloons and to have a seat with their balloons in their laps.

SAY—We started with some easy questions (tacos or hamburger) but then we made them harder. In each one, you made a choice about what is more important to you—be happy or be rich, a good friend or a million dollars, etc.

SAY—Today we're going to look at a story about some other people who made a choice. Jesus told a parable about a man who was giving a large banquet and sent his servant to tell those who were invited.

Tell the students to hold their balloons in their laps until they hear someone make an excuse. Then they'll hit their balloons in the air and grab a different balloon to hold in their lap. Challenge them to see how quickly they can do this. Let them practice once or twice and warn them that if someone can't hold their balloon quietly during the story, they'll be out of the game and without a balloon.

Read Luke 14:15-24 from your Bible.

ASK—What excuses did the people make? (They all had something more important that they chose instead.)

ASK—What was the response of the master? (He was angry and sent his servant to get the people others would leave out.)

ASK—What do you think Jesus was teaching in this parable?

SAY—Everything was ready for the banquet. Everything is ready for people to come to Christ. Like the master, God has given an invitation but some will make excuses not to come to Him because they “had rather” do this or that... There are more important things for them. And, like the master, God sends his servants to the people nobody else might invite and even further out to persuade even more people to come in.

SAY—Today we want you to consider what is important to you and to choose wisely the things you will put in your life

SAY—God has an invitation for all of us—To be saved and then to follow Him every day.

Ask everyone to hold up two fingers:

SAY—God has an invitation for all of us—(Hold up one finger) To be saved and (hold up the other finger too) then to follow Him every day.

STATIC ELECTRICITY

Ask one of your students for his balloon. Ask the other students to hit their balloons away from them and away from where everyone is sitting.

Choose a girl volunteer, preferably someone with semi-long hair. Ask if you can rub the balloon on her hair. Rub it for about 10 seconds and then slowly lift it to see if you have created enough static electricity for some of her hair to rise up to it.

SAY—Rubbing the balloon on her head created static electricity that is now drawing her hair toward the balloon.

SAY—Did you know that God draws people to Himself?

ASK—Why do you think God draws people to Himself? (Because everyone is invited and He wants everyone to be saved and to follow Him.)

ASK—How does God draw people to Himself? (God uses the Bible, other people and even situations to draw people to Him. Sometimes it's like a tug or a pull in your heart where you know that God wants you to do something.)

ASK—Would anybody like to share with us about how you came to Christ? What drew you to Him? What started you to thinking about giving your life to Jesus? (Was it VBS, a preacher, your parents, etc.)

PRAY that your students will always choose wisely what is important to them and that they will always follow Jesus.

EXTRA TIME

If you have extra time, let the students take turns gently rubbing the balloons on each other's heads to see who can get someone's hair to stand up the tallest.

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Week 4 - Ready or Not

YOU WILL NEED: A helium balloon and a slip of paper for each student in your class; tape to attach the notes to the balloons; strings for the balloons; and your Bible.

LET'S GET STARTED

As students enter your room, give each a balloon but tell them not to blow it up—just to hold onto it. These will be the balloon that you'll fill with helium in a few minutes.

ASK—Who remembers what last week's parable was about? (The man who prepared the banquet and sent his servant out to invite people.)

ASK—What happened? (They had more important things to do and wouldn't come.)

ASK—So what did the master of the house do? (Let's read about it.)

Read Luke 14:21-24 from your Bible

SAY—This is a picture of how God invites people to Him.

Ask everyone to hold up two fingers:

SAY—Last week we learned that God has an invitation for all of us—(Hold up one finger) To be saved and (hold up the other finger too) then to follow Him every day.

SAY—Today we're looking at a different parable.

Read Luke 12:35-40 from your Bible

ASK—What truths are Jesus teaching through this parable? (We need to keep our lives ready for eternity—to be saved and to keep on following Him.)

SAY—God wants you to be ready. God wants you to know for sure that you'd spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

ASK—How do you think a person can get ready? (By giving their lives to Jesus—being saved is not by good works we do but by trusting Jesus as our Lord and Savior.)

SAY—Once our hearts are ready, then we can be a part of telling others about Jesus too—which is what we are going to do today!

ASK—Does anyone know what happened to Jesus after the resurrection? (He appeared to His disciples and to more than five hundred other believers at one time.)

Read Acts 1:8-11 from your Bible

ASK—What did Jesus say the disciples would do? (Be witnesses to all the world. In other words, to tell others about Jesus.)

ASK—How can you be a witness?

ASK—Where can you be a witness?

ASK—How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus ascended (went up) to heaven?

SPECIAL ACTIVITY

Balloon Launch

SAY—Today we are going to celebrate Jesus' resurrection (which means that He rose from the dead) and ascension (which means He went up to Heaven), by going outside and releasing some helium balloons. But before we do, we are going to write a message about Jesus on one of these slips of paper, and then we're going to tape each of them to the string of a balloon. This way, if someone who doesn't know Jesus finds it, they'll see a message about the Good News of Jesus.

Have the students write a message on a small slip of paper. While they are doing this, go ahead and begin filling their balloons with helium.

Special Prayer

After the students are finished writing their notes, attach them to the balloons, and pray with them that God will guide these messages into the hands of people who don't know Him and that He'll use them to touch people's lives.

Lead your class outside to release their balloons.

EXTRA TIME

If you have extra time, ask your students how they would use a balloon to teach others about Jesus.

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Week 5 - The Rich Fool

YOU WILL NEED: Balloons, and your Bible.

BEFORE CLASS BEGINS

-Have un-blown up balloons ready to pass out as the students enter.

GAME: BALLOON POP

As students enter your room, give each a balloon and tell them to blow it up, tie it off, and hold onto it. (Younger children may need help with this.)

Tell them that in a moment you will let them spread out in the room or area. They have to hold the balloon by the knot that ties the air in. They can't hold it any other way and they can't switch hands. When you say "Go" they will try to pop everyone else's balloon. They can only pop the balloon using parts of their body; they cannot use any objects to pop the balloons. The point of the game is to be the last one with a balloon. Once their balloon is popped, they are out and they need to have a seat off to the side.

When the game is over: Tell your students to throw away the balloon pieces and sit down in a circle again.

And if the game goes long, set a time limit.

SAY—In the game, most of you lost your balloons. You had a balloon but as quick as it came, then it was gone and the game for you was over. Just like the game ended, someday our lives will end too.

ASK—What can a person take to Heaven with them? (Not money, not stuff—just a life lived for Jesus.)

SAY—Today we're going to look at another parable that Jesus told.

Read Luke 12:15-21 from your Bible

ASK—What truths are Jesus teaching through this parable? (That life is not about stuff and that we should be rich toward God.)

ASK—What does it mean to be “rich toward God”? (To store up your “treasure” in heaven, not on earth. To live for Jesus, not the things of this world.)

ASK—Why do you think God calls this man a “fool?” (Because he lived for all the wrong things and just when he thought he would take it easy, his life ended. And where would all those things go—they can’t go with him!)

SAY:

Everybody take a deep breath...SAY: You can breathe! Good job!

Everybody touch the back of your hand...SAY: You can feel!

SAY: And you can exist...but so can a bull frog. Breathing, feeling and existing aren’t life. Having stuff isn’t life. Being rich isn’t life. Anyone can breath, feel and have things, but only Jesus can give you real life. So we should live for Him and store up our treasure in heaven.

EXTRA TIME

If you have extra time, play the Balloon Pop game again.

Balloon Blast

Week 6 - Don't Worry

YOU WILL NEED: Balloons that say, Mary, Joseph, Inn Keeper; balloons for each student; a slip of paper for each student; scotch tape; something with which the students can write; and your Bible.

BEFORE CLASS BEGINS

-Have balloons ready to hand to students as they enter. Most 3rd-5th graders can blow up their own balloons although they might need some help tying them.

-Have three balloons with Mary, Joseph, and Inn Keeper written on them.

LET’S GET STARTED

As students enter your room, give each a balloon and have them sit anywhere in the room.

SAY—Today we are going to take a census of the balloons. A “census” is a count.

ASK—So if we were to take a census of the number of people in this room. How many would we have?

SAY—But in Jesus’ time when they had a census, people had to return to their hometowns to be counted. That’s what our balloons are going to have to do. The “hometowns” are the corners of the rooms, but there’s one catch. The balloons have to be batted to the correct corner for its color, but you can’t stand up or move from your spot.

Point out which color goes into each “hometown.” Ready, Go!

Once all the balloons are to the corners of the room, instruct the students to leave them there and come sit with you.

ASK—What was it like to move your balloons to a certain corner? (Hard; frustrating; silly; I had to have others help me.)

SAY—Today we are going to learn about how Joseph and Mary had to travel to their hometown of Bethlehem and how Jesus was born there.

Choose a boy and girl volunteer—Give the girl the Mary balloon to hold. Give the boy the Joseph balloon.

SAY—Everybody say, “Hello, Mary and Joseph,” (Kids: Hello, Mary and Joseph!) And congratulations, you’re still not married!

SAY—God chose Mary and Joseph to be the earthly parents of Jesus, and while Mary was expecting to give birth, they both had to travel to Bethlehem, their hometown, for the census.

ASK—How do you think Joseph felt? (His wife is expecting to give birth at any time, and they have to travel several days, through the weather, probably by donkey or by walking over rough ground. There were also many robbers in that day that would attack people on the roads outside the cities.)

ASK—Do you think Mary or Joseph might have been worried?

Choose a volunteer—Give him/her the Inn Keeper balloon.

SAY—When they finally arrived at Bethlehem, all the inns were full.

Have the Inn Keeper volunteer say, “We don’t have any room for you.”

ASK—Do you think Mary or Joseph might have been worried?

SAY—And then when the innkeeper let them stay in the stable, do you think he might have been concerned about a newborn baby being around all those animals?

SAY—And that’s where Jesus was born and he was placed in a manger in a stable in Bethlehem.

Have the Mary, Joseph and Inn Keeper balloon holders give back their balloons.

ASK—If you had been Mary or Joseph, do you think you might have been worried?

ASK—What is worry? (Worry is anxiety or uneasiness or allowing your mind to focus on troubling thoughts and difficulties.)

ASK—What are some things that people worry about?

ASK—What are some things that your family worries about?

ASK—If you could name your biggest worry, what would it be?

ASK—Do you think God wants us to be eaten up with worry?

SAY—Listen to what Jesus said about worry:

Read Luke 12:22-26 from your Bible.

SAY—Jesus wants you to know that life is more than food and clothing—that life is about more than the things we many times worry about. But there’s more...

Read Luke 12:27-31 from your Bible.

SAY—Jesus also wants you to know that God loves you and will take care of you. You can trust Him.

Give each student a balloon to blow up and a small piece of paper. Ask them to write on their paper their names and something that they would like someone else to pray for them. Then have them tape the prayer request to their balloon.

SAY—When I count to three, I want everyone to hit their balloons up in the air and then grab a balloon that is not yours. Ready... 1-2-3, Go!

SAY—Take this balloon home and put this prayer request some place you will see it as a reminder to pray for this person.

EXTRA TIME

If you have extra time, play the census game again but place them across the room in a way that will make it hard for them to get the balloons to the correct corners. Or, for added fun, have them do it with their eyes closed (or with only one person who can see who will try to give instructions to the others).

Sample Family Devotion

Find it. Taste it. Touch it. Make it. Know it. Grow it. See it. Show it. Live it!

Below is a sample of a family devotion from Kolby and Mary Beth King's book, *72 Family Devotions For Spiritually Training Kids*. Link to this book at Smashwords.com.

The purpose of this book is to help families experience God's Word in a colorful, fun, surprising and creative manner; to ignite in them a hunger that leads them to dig in, crawl inside, explore, enjoy and live out God's truth.

Sample Devotion - Build a Fort

YOU WILL NEED:

-1 flashlight

-Your Bible marked at Psalm 56:3 and Psalm 18:1-2

GET STARTED

Have your family members “ransack” the house to get pillows, blankets, chairs, and whatever else they can find to build a fort. Take your time making it and let your kids be creative with it. (For example, they might want to make a tunnel entrance.) Build it big enough for everyone to fit inside.

From inside the fort use your flashlight to **read Psalm 56:3**.

ASK—What is something you’re scared of?

SHARE—Share something you were scared of when you were a child.

ASK—What should we do when we’re scared? (Trust God.)

ASK—Why can we trust God? (He’s faithful. He’ll never let you down. He’ll always keep His Word, etc.)

Read Psalm 18:1-2 from your Bible.

ASK—How is God like a fort (fortress, stronghold) for you? (In old days people went inside a fortress to be safe. Its walls protected them from harm. God is a shield for those who follow Him and like a fort, you are safe in Him.)

ASK—Does this mean that bad things will never happen to someone who is living for Jesus? Why or why not? (Bad things still happen to good people, but there’s nothing so bad that God can’t turn it to your good.)

If they want a further answer, explain that sometimes we do wrong things and these bad choices bring “bad” things into our lives. But sometimes we do everything right and someone else does something wrong and we get hurt because of it. Even so, there’s nothing your children will ever do that is so bad that God can’t forgive them and there’s nothing so bad that can happen to them that God can’t turn it around to their good if they love Him and are walking with Him. (See Romans 8:28 for a great promise.)

PRAY—List prayer requests below and thank God that He will always take care of you.

After you're done playing in the fort, feel free to have a pillow fight or time your family to see how fast they can tear the fort down and put everything away. Have fun and enjoy!

About the Authors Kolby & Mary Beth King

God changed their lives...

With that being said, Kolby is the children's minister at First Baptist Church in Owasso, Oklahoma, where he and Mary Beth, his wife, minister to 150 elementary students each week. They are also the founders of three-thirty ministries, a resource network for the purpose of providing affordable resources to churches and families around the world. Kolby is a ventriloquist (which basically means he likes to talk to himself) and Mary Beth eats fire as a way of sharing the Gospel. During their years in evangelism and student ministry, they picked up other interesting ministry tools including stunts with six-foot balloons, balloon sculptures, fire-juggling (which one should never do on a windy day!), and a variety of other unique activities for the purpose of sharing Jesus with others.

Learn more about events or training conference they can bring to your church or organization at <http://www.threethirtyministries.org>.

"Jesus must become greater; I must become less." John 3:30

Check out more books by Kolby and Mary Beth King at Smashwords.com