



kidTOUGH TRAINING MANUAL

For: Children's
Pastors, Directors,
Leaders

Author: BTRG Marketing &
Editing Team

- **T**RUST
- **O**BEY
- **U**NITE
- **G**ROW
- **H**ONOR



...helping ministries put their best foot forward.



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Founder & President

Jerry Blanchard



HUSBAND FATHER PASTOR AUTHER SPEAKER

As founder and President of **Big Toe Resource Group**, Jerry is the lead trainer and go-to expert on the pedagogy and content of **kidTOUGH™**, a 1st–6th grade large/small group curriculum for churches designed to “teach rock-solid truths that help kids hang tough.” AT BTRG, Jerry oversees the development, theological roadmap, and marketing direction of curriculum. As a children’s and family pastor with 25+ of ministry service, Jerry serves as a consultant and trainer to children’s leaders nationwide, teaching foundational ministry concepts.

Big Toe Resource Group (BTRG) was formed in 2005 with the idea of “helping ministries put their best foot forward.” Leading a consortium of pastors and community leaders, Jerry stepped out by the Lord’s leading to provide a contrasting alternative to the watered-down, behavioral-modification approach to elementary grade curriculum by returning to sound, Christ-centered, Biblical teaching in a fun and innovative way. Rather than using gimmicks, kidTOUGH™ is a curriculum that **aims high** (all about Him), **shoots straight** (real and honest), and **goes deep** (truth and application).

“As an IT consultant and project manager for eighteen years, I worked with Fortune 500 companies, problem solving complex issues and working with executives and key stake holders to implement profitable solutions. At the half-time of my life, God called me away from success and into significance as a full-time children’s pastor, teaching kids, training leaders, and providing practical solutions for other churches.”

Jerry’s passion is to help churches combat the temptation to simply “process” kids through Sunday, and return back to the Biblical mandate to “pastor” kids. Elementary age ministry is so much more than day-care and cute, watered-down, one-line concepts. Kids need solid Biblical truths that help them to understand a loving God in a deeper and more profound way. In understanding God better, they can hold His truths up against the backdrop of a confusing and changing world and develop the courage and strength to **Trust** in the Lord, **Obey** His commands, **Unite** in a close friendship with God and other believers, **Grow** in the Word, and **Honor** both God and others.



Why kidTOUGH?

Built With You In Mind

kidTOUGH™ was specifically built with the user in mind – Inexpensive, easy to understand and prepare, flexible, no “busy work” extra materials, and no advanced volunteer preparation.

The service flow and content are built on a “Flex Model” of six tightly-coupled segments. These six service segments provide you with flexible framework that brings a consistent, predictably unpredictable flow to your kids' service, ensuring you get the most out of every minute. **kidTOUGH™** can flex to handle a 60-90 minute service.

With minimal prep time and basic sound/video equipment, you can have a high quality kids' service that is exciting, fast-paced, effective and affordable; one that kids and parents will love, and staff and volunteers will appreciate.

Why **kidTOUGH™** is effective:

- Developed specifically to solve common curriculum challenges
- Battle-tested from years of research and feedback from churches of all sizes and distinctive leanings, including internationally
- Broken into one-month teaching series with its own fun and unique theme/branding
- Built around five essential character traits (Trust, Obey, Unite, Grow, Honor), focusing on one trait and Bible character or truth for the whole month
- Minimal small group material preparation, and no volunteer preparation
- Utilizes the “**interACTIVATE**” teaching model that engages all learning styles and emphasizes immediate reinforcement
- No unrealistic time or teaching expectations on small group leaders
- Only one host that manages / coordinates the flow of the whole service
- Story-telling in a large group / small group setting
- Deeper teaching that encompasses OT, NT, doctrinal truths, church history, and heroes of the faith
- Emphasizes real-life application at the kid level
- Parent take-away card with family discussion questions
- At-home tools for kids to grow during the week



kidTOUGH Framework

The Five Traits

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey my commands." He broke down love and all the law and the prophets into two commandments:

1. **Love God** (Mark 12:30, Deut. 6:4-5)
2. **Love Others** (Mark 12:31, Lev. 19:18)

kidTOUGH™ teaches kids to love God and love others by focusing on five life-challenging traits, reinforcing them with foundational life-changing truths. Kids are taught and encouraged to **Trust** in the Lord, **Obey** His commands, **Unite** in a close friendship with God and other believers, **Grow** in the Word, and **Honor** both God and others. These five traits make up the acronym T.O.U.G.H. By reinforcing these traits over weeks, months and years, the goal is to build a foundational set of knowledge, wisdom and courage in each child that can help carry them into and through the tough middle-school years. Each trait has a corresponding tagline: Ex. "TRUST: I can count on God to be there for me."

Trust	<i>I can count on God to be there for me</i>
Obey	<i>I can stop, pause and make the right choice</i>
Unite	<i>I can connect Jesus to every part of my life</i>
Grow	<i>I can allow the Bible to shape my life</i>
Honor	<i>I can put God and others first</i>

Each of these traits is packaged in a four-week teaching unit with its own fun and unique theme/branding. The teaching contains an intentional balance of Old and New Testament, doctrinal truth, and church history to help kids answer the "why" behind the "what" for each character trait. Typically, a church will teach five months focusing on one trait per month, and then select five new teaching series to teach the same five traits again.



People Needed

Recruiting & Roles

One of the common and biggest pain points for children's pastors and directors is recruiting. There is no denying that every service needs volunteers to make it all happen, but kidTOUGH™ set out to:

- Develop roles that take into consideration the busy lives and inconsistent attendance of volunteers.
- Focus the small group leader's role to *Relationship* and *Reinforcement* with no advance preparation necessary.
- Reduce the amount of "busy work" materials in order to cut down material expense and preparation time, and to allow groups to easily flex up or down based on the number of small group leaders that show up without being short on materials per child.
- Allow the whole service to be run and coordinated by one host/storyteller if need be.
- Make the supporting Powerpoints®, opening videos and other A/V elements to be a "nice to have" rather than a "need to have." These tools are there to enhance the service, but if an A/V person doesn't show, or A/V equipment is of low grade or non-existent, the service goes on without a reduction of quality to what is being taught.

Basic Volunteer Roles per Service

Host (1 person)

The Host makes sure the service runs smoothly from segment to segment without delay or time gaps. They can even serve as the storyteller, although it's always good to have a new/different face for TeachTime. This person should have the ability to organize to control a large group, as well as keep the service moving smoothly without time gaps.

Storyteller (1 person)

The Storyteller executes the lesson portion of the service, teaching the three separate segments of Engage, Teach, and Challenge, with small group in between each of these. The Host and the Storyteller can be the same person.

Small Group Leader (Number based on total kids divided by 10)

The Small Group Leader reinforces the lesson after each of the teaching segments. Their job is to **Explore** the child's opinions, **Evaluate** their understanding of the lesson, and **Encourage** them to take a step in their faith. kidTOUGH™ allows a quality teen leader to execute the small group time effectively. However, maturity and wisdom are important in order to mine out the deeper answers and to handle those spontaneous questions and subjects that may surface. In addition, it's important to have a good ratio of male and female leaders, as both bring unique and valuable perspectives in the context of a small group.

A/V (1 person)

Have a person dedicated to not only running all the worship music, Powerpoint® and Videos, but one who knows the service order in order to anticipate the next task. This avoids uncomfortable and disruptive time gaps where kids may lose focus and allows the service to run smoothly so everything can be accomplished.

"You've Got Mail" writer (1 person - optional)

During the Close Time segment, there is opportunity for the Host to hand out mail to the new first-time guests. Though optional, this adds a wonderful moment to the service to have new guests experience the trait of honor by receiving a personal note, letting them know how much they are welcomed. Typically, whoever is checking the kids in will have somewhat of identifying who is new. Consider pre-printed welcome cards where only a signature is needed, but a personal note is always more meaningful to both the child and the parent. Before Close Time, the mail would be handing to Host to hand out.

Service Coordinator (1 - optional)

This person handles all the administrative details surrounding the service, including making sure all the songs and Powerpoint® are loaded and working, putting out all teaching scripts and props, loading small group bins for pick up, and setting out check-in rosters and name tags. In addition, the Service Coordinator will assist in parsing and balancing small groups, and placing any confused or new kids into groups.

Table game setup (1-2 people - optional)

Look for ways to get people involved in small but important roles, consider having someone come early before the first service and setup the room, especially the table games and video games. This puts less responsibility on the shoulders of the service coordinator, who may need to concentrate their focus on making sure all the props and materials are ready and that they have enough small group leaders for the service.



Service Summary

Order & Flow

Before Service Begins....

When kids are checking in, consider having some simple table games, video game screens and hang-out spots for kids to casually find their place comfortably among a crowd. Contrary to some curriculums that immediately attempt to place kids into a small group, this way allows:

- For new kids to not feel forced into relationship right away
- For kids to catch-up and play with friends not in their small group
- For leadership to take inventory of available small group leaders, have time to shift and combine if needed, or conduct some last-minute recruiting to fill gaps
- For small group leaders to trickle in and visit with each other – very important

Five minutes before the service starts, consider some kind of count-down video on the screen with energetic music that signifies to the kids that the service is about to begin. During the countdown, the service host should start gathering the kids. If space is limited, table games should be quick and easy to clean up and remove from the floor.


Service Flow Summary

The following service segment times are just a guideline. Time can flex up or down by elongating or cutting the game, singing one more or one less song, etc.

05m GameTime	A quick game to create comfortability, fun and focus before worship.
12m TuneTime	Worship time. 3-4 songs; don't overdo it; leave them wanting more.
03m RemindTime	Parse kids into small groups. Go over trait and tagline.
25m TeachTime	Lessons taught in three segments, with small group in-between.
05m GiveTime	Intentional time to teach kids about giving, rallying around a campaign.
10m CloseTime	Announcements, ticket drawing, new guest mail, RelateTime sheets.

Hand **Parent Take-Away** sheets to parents when they pick up their children.

Every lesson comes with a Service Order Template that the Service Coordinator can update with all of the latest details, such as the song list, announcements, giving campaign, etc. This can be printed out, at minimum, for the Host, Storyteller, and A/V. In addition, you may want to have a few extras on hand in case small group leaders may want one.



SERVICE ORDER

WEEK 1: Captured Heart

NOTES: Print out Series Summary and hand a copy to each SG leader. Meet with SG leaders before the service and go over the big themes of the series, how to discipline, tickets/candy, offering.

GAME TIME:

- (A/V) Have an upbeat song ready to go
- "Look-Alike Licks": See game for supply list

TUNE TIME: (Sample: Change to reflect real song set)

- Song 1
- Song 2
- Song 3

REMIND TIME:

- (A/V) Play Remind Time video
- (A/V) Display the Trait-N-Tagline Powerpoint
- Go over TRUST – I can count on God to be there for me.

TEACH TIME:

- (A/V) Bring up first Powerpoint on screen
- **Engage Them:** Talking about comparing ourselves to others
- **Teach Them:** Teaching on Luke 5:1-11 – The Calling of the First Disciples
- **Challenge Them:** Powerpoints for Take-Away, Spotlight verse

GIVE TIME: (Sample: Change to reflect whatever campaign you're working on)

- Ex. Malaria nets in Africa
- (A/V) Bring up goal Powerpoint on screen

CLOSE TIME:

- Announcements, up-coming events, hand out flyers
- Ticket Drawing
- Closing Song, 33
- Keep Groups together: Do Relate Time Sheets until parents com

EXIT: Distribute Parent Take-Away card directly to parents

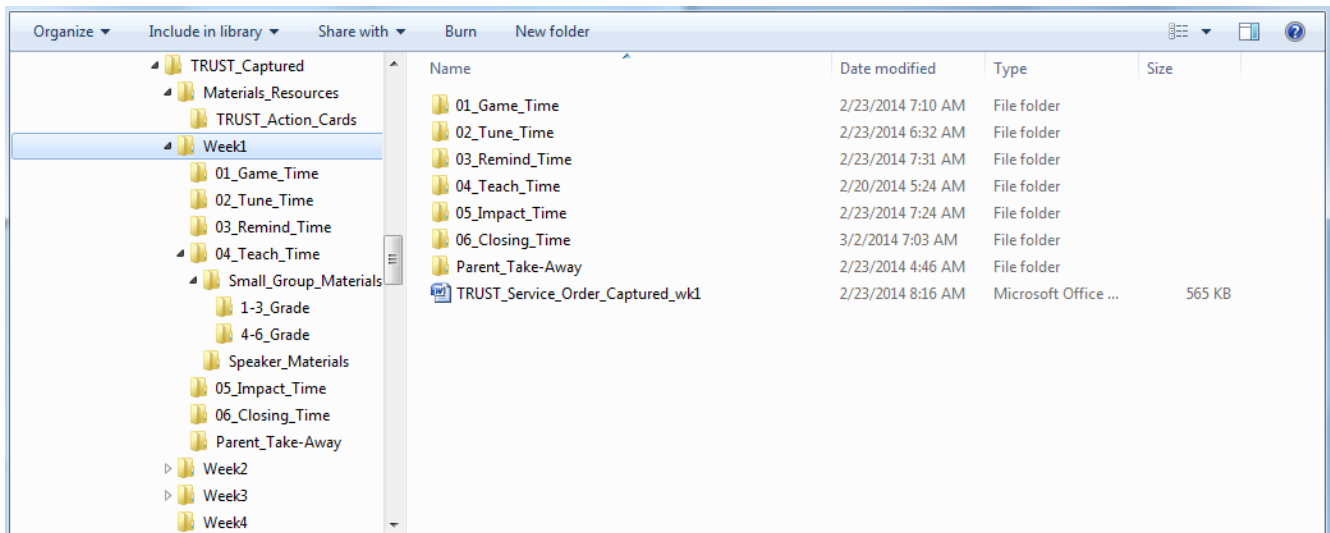
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Managing Content

Directory Structure

When you implement kidTOUGH™, you will find that even the directory structure is organized and systematized by the six segments of the service order to make it easy to follow and prepare.



Materials Resources Directory

Here, you will find files and resources that pertain to the teaching series as a whole.

Action Cards

Ten unique at-home cards that kids can fill out and bring back for a prize. There is a memory verse and some kind of action or step to take. There is a place for parent initials, which gets the parents involved and keeps the child honest. These are best organized on card stock as drop-in images, four to a page for maximum efficiency. Consider having them in visible areas where they can be accessible to students and parents.

- Bumper Video** Each series comes with an opening video. In each Speaker Script, it shows where to play the video. The intent is to uniquely theme the series, and re-focus the child's attention that TeachTime is about to begin.
- RemindTime Video** This is a little bumper video that can be played right before the host goes over the trait of the month and corresponding tagline.
- Training Manual** This training manual will come with every teaching series. Generally, this will not be for public consumption, but will be used for children's leaders to understand the concepts and flows of kidTOUGH™ in order to execute it successfully.

Service Segment Directories

Each individual week will always contain the same six segment directories, as well as the Parent Take-Away directory. In each of these directories, you will find a sheet that gives instruction on what needs to be prepped for that segment. For example, in the GameTime directory, the GameTime sheet will explain the game and contain a list of all materials needed to perform the game.

Series Summary Sheet: At this directory level, there is a Service Summary sheet, which gives an overview of the focus of the series and what is being taught each week. This is good for handing out to the team at a little team meeting before the service in the first week of the month, just to educate and prepare them.

TeachTime Sub-Directories

Under the TeachTime directory exists a sub-directory for Small Group Materials and Speaker Materials. Under the Small Group Materials directory, there is a separate small group sheet for 1st – 3rd grade and 4th – 6th grade. These are formatted the same, but have a slightly different set of questions and activities for to accommodate age-appropriate understanding. Don't worry if your ministry is not segmented exactly in these grade groupings. Churches have many different ways of organizing their kids and rooms. The main thing to understand here is that there is one main large group teaching, but two age-level ways of reinforcing the teaching. For each age group, there is a corresponding Prep Sheet to let the Service Coordinator know what materials to gather for the small group bins.

The Speaker Materials directory contains just the Storyteller Script, and any Powerpoint® and video clips that support the lesson.

Parent Take-Away Directory

This directory contains a double-copy sheet for running through the copier to print a number that satisfies the number of parents in your ministry. This can be copied in either color or black and white, and is best done on card stock if budget allows.



Segment Details

Setup / Preparation

1. Game Time – gather n go



The opening game is essential to creating the desired atmosphere so kids feel safe, included and comfortable. Kids walk eagerly into the environment anticipating each week's game, and it is a great plug-in point for guests. This is a quick, attention-grabbing game that involves the participation of as many kids as possible. GameTime has the potential to break the ice for 1.st time guests and set them up for success in the rest of the services.

kidTOUGH™ supplies a group game for every week, which includes a description of the game and a list of all the necessary materials required to play the game.

One-Time Prep:

N/A

Weekly Prep:

Staff: A game host. This role, with quick and easy preparation, is ideal for volunteers. Make sure you have all the necessary tools/props to help them succeed.

Game: Do an interactive game involving all or just some of the kids. This gathers them and starts the service in a fun way. The curriculum has a suggested game each week, but feel free to alter it or interject your own game as well.

Music: When it makes sense, play upbeat music in the background to keep the energy up.

2. Tune Time – energize n focus



Tune Time is the primary worship time. The first minutes are vital to setting up the rest of the service and preparing hearts to hear the Word. As soon as the game is declared over, train your audio/visual person to immediately start the first worship song. The first couple of songs should have a moderate to high energy level to engage kids and foster excitement about corporately worshipping the Lord.

It's easy to only focus on regulars who understand church life and may already be believers.

However, be aware and be sensitive to the fact that

not all kids have grown up in the church and may find worship time to be uncomfortable. Because some kids may just want to observe, and others will want to worship with their friends, we recommend doing worship prior to getting the kids into small groups.

Since every church has its own flavor and style of worship music, kidTOUGH™ does not supply music, but we do have recommendations for getting the most out of Tune Time. The number of songs will depend on the amount of service time you are trying to fill. However, our advice is to not “overdo” worship. You always want to leave them wanting more.

One-Time Prep:

Equipment:

- Mp3 device, presentation software, or CD Player
- Some way to display worship lyrics. Common options are an LCD video projector projecting onto a screen or wall, or service presenter software fed to a digital monitor.
- Software to manage worship lyrics. Common options are Powerpoint®. However, church presentation software such as Easy Worship or ProPresenter are relatively affordable Win/Mac tools that make running media easier and more efficient. They also allow for less preparation and provide graphic and moving image backgrounds.
- Microphone. Consider getting a wireless head mic. for worship, keeping hands free and providing a consistent, projected sound.

Weekly Prep:

Staff: A worship leader. Worship leaders should be primary core ministry team members. They should come well prepared, have good stage presence, and effectively handle transitions between songs with either a scriptural reference or an Inspirational thought. Well-

trained high-school students can play this role with mentoring and guidance. Any mature adult with the right heart and approach can succeed in this role. Optionally, have kids up on stage helping out.

Practice/Prep: If you are building a core worship team, especially when it involves kids, consider developing a regular practice time to go over next Sunday's songs, introduce new songs, and teach the team the core principles of what it means to lead others in worship. The key is to develop in each person who is on stage to lead by example. Each week, someone needs to pick out the song set and prepare the words for the screen.

The bigger your team, the better the planning needs to be.

Here's a sample of good planning for worship:

- Pick out 18-20 songs for the new church season
- Produce a CD to be given to each team member to learn the songs
- Produce and mail a quarterly calendar showing practice schedule, assignments, and songs to perform.
- Practice 1-2 new songs a month, or consider doing a worship workshop to teach several new songs
- Roll out a new song two weeks in a row and then incorporate the song into a regular, consistent schedule.

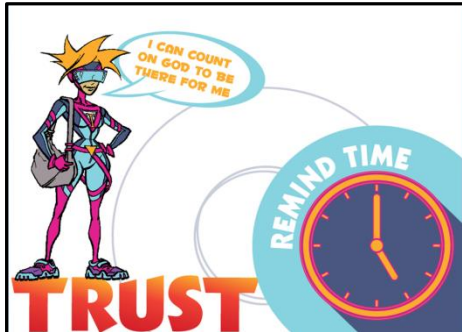
Songs: Because worship songs are so subjective to the DNA of a church, kidTOUGH™ does not make suggestions as to which songs to sing. However, our philosophy is to create energy at the beginning of the service with upbeat songs that involve a spiritual connection with God using music, words and the physicality of hand motions.

Here are some general guidelines to help you get the most out of Tune Time:

- Use canned music for service quality and consistency
- Have an enthusiastic worship leader communicating energy
- Let your transitional words connect kids to God, not just the song or creating a fun environment
- Find songs that new guests would love to sing
- Do hand motions to bring in the physicality of worship
- Cater hand motions to the 4th/5th grade boy; if you get them, you get the rest
- Let your energy be bigger than life... the kids will match your energy
- Consider developing a team of kids to help lead worship on stage

When it comes to worship, preparation, quality, consistency, and not letting anything detract or distract from this time (*equipment or microphone failures*) are the key areas of focus.

3. Remind Time – remember n remind



Remind Time is important because it keeps the structure of the curriculum in front of the kids at all times, it reinforces what they are learning and why it's important, and it catches new guests up to speed so they don't feel lost.

Remind Time involves three primary segments:

1. Parse kids into small groups after worship
2. Help them remember last week's lesson
3. Remind them of the trait of the month and corresponding tagline

Parsing kids into small groups

One-Time Prep:

- Leader materials: If you are not using the kidTOUGH™ custom small group tubes, any small group leader container or bin will suffice.
- "Velcro™ Brand Hook-and-Loop Fasteners" can be purchased either on-line or at your local office supply store. *(Make sure you purchase just the hook side)* Seven yards will get you one small group square, each small group should have approx 12-13 ft diameter of separation.
- Purchase "double" ticket rolls from your local office supply store. These are used as part of an incentive program. Tickets are given to students who display good behavior and participation skills in exchange for a piece of candy at the end of the service. Purchasing different colored roles to alternate each week keeps kids from defying the system by bringing back old tickets.

Weekly Prep:

1. Be sure to consult the supplied prep sheet for non-standard supplies.
2. Confirm small group leaders for Sunday. Three types of small group leaders:
 - Regulars – consistent, weekly leaders who develop relationships with kids and connect new kids to friends
 - Subs – Scheduled volunteers to fill in for a regular leader that has a scheduled absence
 - Floaters – A protective layer of volunteers who come to fill in for leaders who are absent without notice or when there are more kids than anticipated. If not needed, they are dismissed.
3. Setup of Velcro squares *(great if you can leave them on the floor)*
4. Fill Tubes: small group sheet, RelateTime sheet, 10 tickets per tube, and 10 pieces of

candy per tube.

5. When parsing kids, we are considering three types of students: consistent attendees, once in a while attendees, and new guests. This is the suggested way when handling parsing:
 - Right after worship, have kids clear the floor. Say, "Okay kids, girls to the right, and boys to the left."
 - SG leaders will stand in one of the open squares with their tubes
 - Say, "Those of you who come every week and you know who your small group leader is and you see them in one of the squares, may walk there now and have a seat."
 - Calm the other students by saying, "The rest of you just stay where you are and someone will be moving you into a small group in just a second."
 - To small group leaders, say, "Those small group leaders, who can still take a few kids, please raise your hand."
 - Have a Service Coordinator start parsing kids into remaining groups that do not have 10 kids.
 - You may want to separate genders for 4th & 5th boys and girls.
6. Once every child is in a small group, toss out an introductory question. For example, "Tell your leader your name and what grade you're in and what your favorite ice cream is." This question can be anything as long as it's quick, easy and allows for all to participate (*favorite movie, favorite soda, etc.*).

Remembering: Last Week's Lesson

Weekly Prep:

It's good to remind kids of what they have learned. The leader up front will take 45-60 seconds to remind them of what was taught in the Bible lesson the previous week. Keep it brief.

1. Recruit a volunteer to be in charge of Remind Time.
2. Depending on the person in charge of this segment, you can choose to script out the summary or just wing it. Good preparation will make this time effective and keep it within 60-90 seconds.
3. Other ideas: If you have a drama team, this might be a mini-skit, or it can be a movie clip. Example: If you are summarizing chapter 1 of Jonah, the VeggieTales "Jonah" movie would be a great 60 second clip.

When appropriate or available, the kidTOUGH™ curriculum will make movie clip suggestions for this segment, but because of licensing issues, will not provide movie clips.

Reminding: Trait of the Month

One-Time Prep:

Have some kind of visual that kids can understand what letter in the word "T.O.U.G.H." you are working on

- Example #1:
 - Cut out five letters in white foam core and five letters in red
 - Use Velcro tabs to mount your letters somewhere on the stage
- Example #2:
 - To give a more industrial look, have a 3' x 5' sheet metal cut and mounted or displayed somewhere on stage
 - Have a local printer or sign maker produce magnetized letters of the word "TOUGH" in two different colors
 - Depending on what trait you are working on, make that letter the alternate color
- Example #3:
 - Use the Powerpoint® slide supplied in the *Remind Time* segment folder

Weekly Prep:

At the beginning of the month, make sure you have your new trait letter ready for display, or have your A/V person display the "Trait-N-Tagline_PPT" Powerpoint®. The curriculum includes some scripts/skits that creatively make this segment a fun time.

Whichever way you choose to reinforce the trait of the month with the kids, these are the primary delivered components of this segment:

- Get the kids involved to say the trait out loud ("How many of you remember what trait we are working on?" (take answers)
- Say the tagline: Trust – "I can count on God to be there for me."
- Ways to do this:
 - On the count of three, get them to say it as fast as possible. (Say it all together)
 - Put a Powerpoint® up with some missing words and call on someone to fill it in
 - Talk briefly about why it's so important we learn that trait. This is a good time to tell a personal story.

4. Teach Time – teach n reinforce



Teach Time is the Bible lesson and discussion/reinforcement segment of the service. It consists of three primary components:

1. Bumper Video (if supplied) – A short video that brands the series, shown right before the speaker comes up. This will be the same video for the whole month.

2. Storyteller – The person who is going to command the attention of the kids from the stage. They will drive three portions of the teach time:

- **Engage** them (*why should they care?*)
- **Teach** them (*what does the Bible say?*)
- **Challenge** them (*what step do you want them to take?*)

3. Small Group Leaders – The people who are sitting with the kids, facilitating discussion and relationships. They will drive three portions of the teach time:

- **Explore** their opinion
- **Evaluate** their understanding
- **Encourage** their walk

One-Time Prep:

N/A

Weekly Prep:

The series bumper video is supplied with the curriculum and is located in the Materials Resources director. This should be played immediately after the *Remind Time* as a smooth transition of a new face on stage, as well as focus the kids attention that the teaching time is about to begin.

Located in the Speaker_Materials folder:

- Print out 2 copies of the Storyteller Script; one for the Storyteller and one for the A/V person to follow along.
- Have the lesson Powerpoints® loaded for the A/V person.

Located in the Small_Group_Materials folder:

- Print out 1-3 and 4-6 small group sheets
- Fill the small group tubes with the proper supplies, as guided by the Prep Sheet, located in the Small_Group_Materials folder.

The Storyteller reviews and rehearses the provided script. Make sure you supply the Storyteller with all recommended props that go with the teaching time. Look at the Storyteller Script in the “Prop n Things” sections to know what props and supplies to gather.

Contingencies:

1. **When there is not enough small group leaders** – When there is a shortage of small group leaders, the tendency is to want to filter kids into other groups. However, if you over expand groups too much beyond 10 kids, you're hurting the dynamics of healthy groups. Consider, as the host/speaker of the room, taking the subset of kids without a leader and having them gather in front of you. During the small group time, turn off your microphone or headset and kneel down and become the group's small group leader.
2. **When you have a smaller service with no small group leaders** —When you have no small group leaders, handle the group as a whole, playing both parts as “storyteller”, as well as “small group leader”. Change up your posture when you are doing the small group time but bringing the kids close in and kneeling on the floor with them. When it's time to speak, have them spread back out, turn on your microphone or headset and stand up to teach. Though not ideal, it is possible to successfully execute kidTOUGH™ for as many as 25-30 kids with just two people: the leader and an A/V person.
3. **When the room isn't big enough to fit everyone**—Consider breaking off into two separate groups in separate rooms. For example, split 1-3rd and 4-6th grade into two rooms. It is true that you would have to recruit two teams to run each service, but what an exciting problem to have... too many kids!
4. **When there is no or poor audio/visual equipment**— kidTOUGH™ doesn't rely heavily upon technology to work properly. The Powerpoints® and video clips are enhancements that make the service better, but are not necessary to run the service successfully. Worship suffers some, but the key is to make the best of what you've got. Kids adapt to environments very well, and they won't miss what they've never had.

5. Give Time – systematic n spontaneous

Give Time is the offering time. It's important to create the habit of systematic giving with kids so that when they become adults, it will be second nature. We teach the concept of 'tithing' in the "ENCOURAGE" section of the small group leader sheet, helping the kids with creative ways to save and set aside allowance and earned income, ways to remember to bring it on Sunday morning, etc. We teach that giving is systematic, but it is also spontaneous (Matthew 25:35-36). Kids learn that exhibiting generosity and caring for others is an important part of their spiritual walk.

One-Time Prep:

- It's important to create some kind of visual that kids can rally around each week. Example: take a roll-away bulletin board and decorate it with the quarterly emphasis that you are working on (ex. World Vision gift catalog program, buying farm animals for African families)
- Make some kind of visual that measures progress each week (a big thermometer, etc.)
- Create a place for kids to get up and respond to dropping in their offering. This can be as simple as a bucket on the stage to creating a drop box prop that matches your quarterly emphasis.

Weekly Prep:

After the "CHALLENGE them" speaking time, the Storyteller will remind the small group leaders to prepare the kids to get ready to give their offering. There will always be a place in the "ENCOURAGE" section of the small group leader sheet for them to utilize, with tips and suggestions on how to become systematic givers.

6. Close Time – reward n relate

Close Time is where we **reward** the kids and have some relate time as we close out the service.



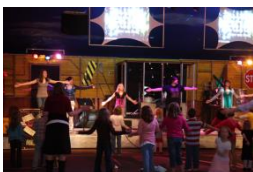
1. **Announcements** – Carve out just 30-60 seconds of time to update and inform kids on future calendar events. Flyers, touch cards, applications, etc. should always be readily available to get into the hands of kids/parents to ensure everyone is well informed.



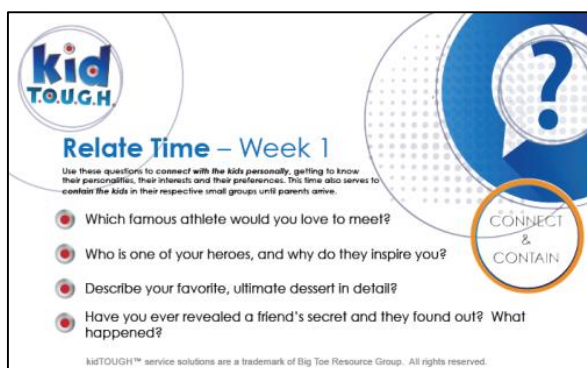
2. **Raffle Tickets:**
 - Have each group leader pick out a winner from all the ticket holders in their group for a weekly special prize and have them put one half of the ticket into a bucket on stage, holding onto the other half.
 - Draw out a winner from all group representatives, and let them pick a prize out of the prize box. (See “Weekly Prep” below)
 - Instruct the small group leader to distribute a piece of candy to all ticket holders in their group. This is just a small reward intended to reinforce the good behavior they displayed throughout the service.
 - For those who misbehaved, it is okay for leaders to hold their ground and not distribute a ticket and corresponding prize; otherwise, you are rewarding them for bad behavior. Say, “Today, you weren’t on your best behavior. But next week, I know you will pay attention better and honor the speaker and those around you.” If you have the chance, pull the parent aside and explain what happened to make sure they get the full and correct story.



3. **“You’ve got mail”** is given out to all new guests, inviting them back next week. Consider having new guest cards on hand and having someone sign them during the service. The cards will get handed to the room leader prior to Close Time. The beauty and power of a new guest getting mail is the impression you leave that you cared enough to give them a card on the first Sunday they came.



4. **Closing Song** – (optional) If time permits, have kids stand for a final energetic song to end on a high note.



5. **Relate Time** – Even though it's the end of the service, this is a great time to get in some last minute relational time with the kids. Instruct the small group leaders to take the "Relate Time" sheet out of their small group bin and ask questions that will engage the kids in discussion. This allows the group leader to *connect* with the kids personally, getting to know their personalities, their interests and their preferences. This time also

serves to *contain* the kids in their respective small groups until parents come and pick them up. This brings the service to a productive and orderly close, and it allows the small group leader to interact with the parent for any child-specific information that needs to be discussed.

Weekly Prep:

- Picking out a closing song and preparing the words for display
- Making sure you have the double, tear-away raffle tickets in the small group materials so leaders can hand them out and take a drawing within each of their groups
- Supplying a weekly prize or prize box each week. This can be a gift from The Dollar Store, a retail gift card, etc. Consider having a "boys" prize box and a separate "girls" prize box so you can organize gender-specific prizes.
- Supply the check-in counter with "new guest" cards and envelopes. Assign a person to write a nice, quick note to each of the new guests that came while the service is going on. Consider have a real mail box up front where the cards can be slipped into during one of the small group sessions. That way, they will easily available for the host when it comes to Close Time and handing out the mail.
- Relate Time cards should already be in the small group bins for each leader as part of the small group prep responsibilities.

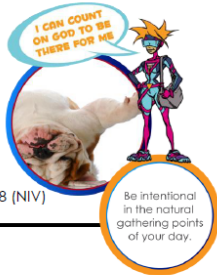
Parent Take-Away Tool:

kidTOUGH™ supplies a weekly take-home card for parents. This tool is designed to inform the parent of what their child learned in the service, as well as provide them with some useful family topic questions during the natural gathering points of their day.


WHAT WE LEARNED TODAY:

This Month's Series: Flipped
Week 1 – Thinking Flipped


This Month's Trait: TRUST – I can count on God to be there for me.
Bible Story: John 12:13-19 – The Triumphal Entry
Take-Away: Jesus flips our thinking HERE so we can be fit for THERE.
Spotlight Verse: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord." Luke 19:38 (NIV)




PARENT TOOLS:



WHILE YOU EAT: As a family, read John 12:13-19. What are some things you remember about the story of the Triumphal entry? What are some ways you can change up your schedule this week to focus more on Easter? Is there someone in your life that you can invite to Easter services next week?



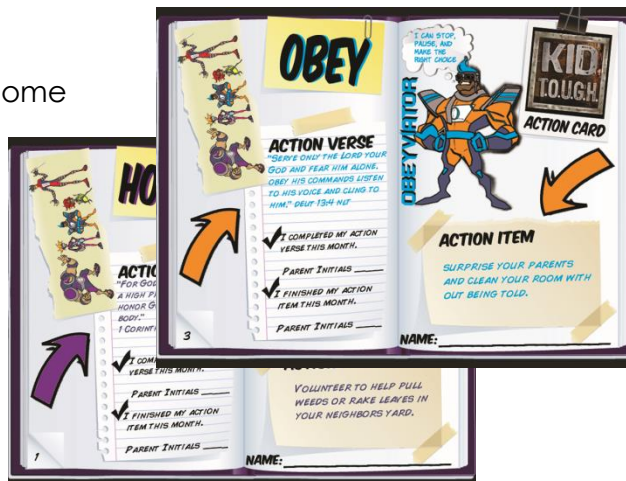
WHILE YOU DRIVE: The crowd quickly went from cheers and praise to anger and disgust. Why did the people turn on Jesus so quickly? What were they falsely wanting out of Jesus?



BEFORE YOU SLEEP: Dear God, thank you for Your great love for us. Thank You for sending Your one and only Son, who made a way for us to be friends with God for eternity. We remember Jesus this week, and what He did for us on the cross.

Child At-Home Tool:

kidTOUGH™ also provides **Action Cards**, a take-home tool to work on during the week. Kids can turn in as many as they'd like during a month. Each card consists of a particular action tied to the trait of the month that helps them reinforce new spiritual and character habits in their life. A parent signature is required, which keeps them informed of the child's activity and progress.





Fifth Sundays

Extra 1-Week Lessons

kidTOUGH™ teaching series comprises four weeks of teaching content, with the first three weeks focusing on the topic, and the fourth week summarizing the content in what we call "Summary Sunday".



2-3 times a year, there is a **Fifth Sunday** in the month. kidTOUGH™ accounts for this by supplying curriculum content that the teacher can use. It's always good to create "predictably unpredictable" times in your services, and **Fifth Sunday** is an opportunity to "break things up". Consequently, the service order is treated more like a traditional kids' church with extended worship, and a straight teach time rather than an interactive teach time with small groups. This

allows for an occasional break for the small group leaders by structuring the service to be handled by less people.

Even though we supply **Fifth Sunday** content, this really is a time for you to interject something that is on your heart to impart into your kids. If you have a heart for worship and you want to teach a lesson on the topic of what worship is and aspects of worship, then use this Sunday to hit that home. If you have a heart for evangelism and you want to do a special lesson on how kids can share their faith with their friends, this is a great time to do that.

Fifth Sunday is also a great time to give new story tellers a chance to get some experience. It's can be an extended time of "fun" and "silly" game time...anything to "break it up".

Fifth Sunday is a great time to encourage the kids to invite their friends because they know something new and surprising is going to happen. Don't let **Fifth Sunday** just be so, so....put some effort into it and make this a special week for your kids.



Appendix

Game Time Sheet

Print this out for the person running the game, or email the PDF to them in advance for their review. Make sure the game has all the necessary materials, and is organized and executed smoothly kicks the service off on a high note.



GAME TIME

WEEK 1: Stealing Home

OBJECTIVE:
To be the first person (or team) to get three objects in your square

PLAYERS:
4 People (or as a team)

SUPPLIES:
Masking tape (or Velcro)
4 Jolly Ranchers® (or any small object)

RULES:
Tape or Velcro four squares onto the floor about 6ft apart

Place 6 Jolly Ranchers in each of the squares

Have each person (or team) stand in their respective squares. To start the game, say "GO", and have the kids run to other squares, stealing one Jolly Rancher, and placing it back in their own square. Let the game go on for 60-90 seconds, or however long you choose.


At the end of the game, count up the Jolly Ranchers in each square. The person (or team) with the most Jolly Ranchers in his or her square wins.

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Appendix

Storyteller Script

Print this out for the person doing the lesson up front, and email the PDF to them in advance to they can rehearse. Make sure the Storyteller has all the necessary props as outlined in the script.



STORYTELLER SCRIPT

WEEK 1: NO DOUBT ABOUT IT

ENGAGE them

1st Segment: (5 min. – Then turn over to the Bible lesson)

*The intent with this section is to **engage** them by getting them speaking on. To get the most out of this opening time, use props, stories and language from the Bible. The script below is just a guide. If you have a better idea, use it. The **ENGAGE** section sets up the Bible lesson.*

MAIN elements

TRUST Tagline: I can count on God to be there for me.

Bible: Judges 6:1-24 – Gideon and the Midianites

Take-Away: God has never given us a reason to doubt Him.

Spotlight Verse: "We know how much God loves us." 1 John 4:16 (NLT)

PROPS n things

- Series Intro Video: "Fearless," located in the Series Intro Video
- Skateboard

Week 1 – Fearless (TRUST)

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BEGIN speaking

Show Opening Video ("Fearless")

Show slide ("Part 1")

Kids, all of us are born with a certain set of built in fears:

- fear of falling
- fear of the dark
- fear of lobsters
- fear of falling on lobsters in the dark
- fear of swimming, fear of the thought of even swimming
- fear of giving your first presentation in front of the class
- fear of the Easter Bunny or of clowns

For us adults:

- fear of the words, "Some Assembly Required"

But all of us have fears.

Someone once said, "The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear."

Show slide ("What is fear")

But what is fear really?

Is just about screaming uncontrollably? (*give a frightful scream*). Of course not! But it sure feels good sometimes just to let out a good scream (*another frightful scream*). C'mon, let's all give a good scream together. Everyone put your hands over your ears and on the count of three, let's give out a good scream. 1, 2, 3 (*everyone screams*). Wow, don't you feel better?

Fear is more than screaming, more than our heart pounding, more than our skin getting huge goose bumps. At the very core of fear...deep, deep down...is the absence of trust.

Think about it....the people you most trust in your life, you don't fear. But we fear strangers, we fear hate, we fear arguing and fighting, and we fear the unknown.....because it doesn't feel right, it doesn't feel safe.

Week 1 – Fearless (TRUST)


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Appendix

1-3 Small Group Sheet

Print this 2-page sheet out for as many 1-3 groups, time the number of services held. Consider posting these as a downloadable PDF on your children's ministry website so small group leaders can access them in advance.



WEEK 1: Thinking Flipped

EXPLORE – their opinion

What kinds of things in our world do we flip over or turn upside down? (Pancakes, upside down cake, burgers, eggs, turtles, etc.)

Sometimes, we don't always do the right thing, or act the right way right thought. That's why we need others in our lives to help flip or turn things in our life that helps you think about things in a different way. (Parents, grandmother, aunt/uncle, older brother or sister, etc.)

Good answers! God puts people in our lives to help us think and act in a way that is pleasing to others, which is pleasing to God.

EVALUATE – their understanding

Why did Jesus choose to ride into town on a donkey?

- A. Because donkeys are built lower to the ground
- B. Because donkeys are better pack animals
- C. Because donkeys are slower
- D. Because the donkey symbolized "peace"**


What did the crowd expect Jesus to save them from? (Rome. The Romans. The Jews, and treated them like slaves in their own land.)

Why did Jerusalem have so many more people within its walls during Jesus' time?

- A. Because they were coming to see the big football game
- B. Because the people came to the city to worship, purchase supplies, and their spring lambs prepared for the big celebration
- C. Because people had heard that Jesus was coming to town
- D. Both B & C**

Just when we think we've got Jesus figured out, he flips our thinking!


- When we want to push another kid on the playground because Jesus tells us to do what? (**Forgive them and walk away.**)
- When we want to hate our enemies, Jesus wants us to do what? (**Love our enemies and pray for those who hurt us.**)
- When we want to be prideful and puff out our chest, Jesus calls us to do what? (**Humble and to serve others.**)
- When we want to be jealous or envious of a friend's new toy, Jesus wants us to do what? (**Content and thankful for we have.**)



ENCOURAGE – their walk

What is one thing you learned about the triumphal entry and Palm Sunday that you didn't know before today?

LET'S PRAY: Dear God, thank you for loving us and caring enough about us to flip our thinking, and flip our hearts so that might treat others as You would want us to treat them. Help us to forgive those that are mean to us, and be kind to those who aren't always kind to us. Help us to be more like Jesus every day. Amen."



I'm handing you some Easter invitation cards. Just like you send out Birthday invitation cards to your friends, you can send out these cards to invite your friends, who may not have church to attend next week, to be your special guest. Your friends will hear a great message about Jesus, and have a lot of fun too!

MEMORIZE – God's Word

SPOTLIGHT VERSE:
"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord." Luke 19:38 (NIV)

Jesus is the King of our hearts, and the King of our lives. He is a good King, and He deserves our love, honor and respect, even when things aren't always going right.

PREPARE TO GIVE – (take cue from host or storyteller)

The Bible says that we are not owners of our time, our money and our possessions; God is. We are only managers of His things.

When you think of yourself as a manager of God's things, how much more careful should you be with His stuff?

Let's always be ready to give back what is already His, and do it with a joyful heart.

LET'S PRAY THAT GOD WILL HELP US REMEMBER OUR OFFERING EACH WEEK: "Dear God, show us how to love people in the same way that You love them. One way to show we love you and others is to give our offering money so that your church can help others. Help us to remember on our own without our parents reminding us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

GRADES 1-3

EXPLORE
their opinion

EVALUATE
their understanding

ENCOURAGE
their walk

I CAN COUNT ON GOD TO BE THERE FOR ME

Encourage the kids to take a practical ACTION step in their faith journey this week.

Help them memorize this month's Spotlight Verse.

Prepare to Give is for children's programs that take an offering.

Appendix

4-6 Small Group Sheet

Print this 2-page sheet out for as many 4-6 groups, time the number of services held. Consider posting these as a downloadable PDF on your children's ministry website so small group leaders can access them in advance.



WEEK 1: Thinking Flipped

EXPLORE – their opinion

What kinds of things in our world do we flip over or turn upside down?
(Pancakes, upside down cake, burgers, eggs, turtles, etc.)

Sometimes, we don't always do the right thing, or act right thought. That's why we need others in our lives. Who is in your life that helps you think about things in a different way?
(Parents, grandmother, aunt/uncle, older brother or sister, etc.)

Good answers! God puts people in our lives to help us think about things that is pleasing to others, which is pleasing to God.

EVALUATE – their understanding

Why did Jesus choose to ride into town on a donkey?

- A. Because donkeys are built lower to the ground
- B. Because donkeys are better pack animals
- C. Because donkeys are slower
- D. Because the donkey symbolized "peace."**

What did the crowd expect Jesus to save them from?
mean to the Jews, and treated them like slaves in the temple.

Why did Jerusalem have so many more people with Jesus?

- A. Because they were coming to see the big football game
- B. Because the people came to the city to worship, put their spring lambs prepared for the big celebration.
- C. Because people had heard that Jesus was coming
- D. Both B & C**

Just when we think we've got Jesus figured out, he flips our thinking.

- When we want to push another kid on the playground, Jesus tells us to do what? **(Forgive them and walk away.)**
- When we want to hate our enemies, Jesus wants us to **(Love our enemies and pray for those who hurt us.)**
- When we want to be prideful and puff out our chest, Jesus wants us to **(Humble and to serve others.)**
- When we want to be jealous or envious of a friend, Jesus wants us to **(Content and thankful for we have.)**

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ENCODE – their walk

What is one thing you learned about the triumphal entry and Palm Sunday that you didn't know before today?

LET'S PRAY: Dear God, thank you for loving us and caring enough about us to flip our thinking, and flip our hearts so that might treat others as You would want us to treat them. Help us to forgive those that are mean to us, and be kind to those who aren't always kind to us. Help us to be more like Jesus every day. Amen."

Birth Date: _____
Consecration Date: _____
By: _____
For: _____

I'm handing you some Easter invitation cards. Just like you send out Birthday invitation cards to your friends, you can send out these cards to invite your friends, who may not have church to attend next week, to be your special guest. Your friends will hear a great message about Jesus, and have a lot of fun too!

MEMORIZE – God's Word

SPOTLIGHT VERSE:
"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord." Luke 19:38 (NIV)

Jesus is the King of our hearts, and the King of our lives. He is a good King, and He deserves our love, honor and respect, even when things aren't always going right.

PREPARE TO GIVE – (take cue from host or storyteller)

The Bible says that we are not owners of our time, our money and our possessions; God is. We are only managers of His things.

When you think of yourself as a manager of God's things, how much more careful should you be with His stuff?

Let's always be ready to give back what is already His, and do it with a joyful heart.

LET'S PRAY THAT GOD WILL HELP US REMEMBER OUR OFFERING EACH WEEK: "Dear God, show us how to love people in the same way that You love them. One way to show we love you and others is to give our offering money so that your church can help others. Help us to remember on our own without our parents reminding us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

GRADES 4-6

EXPLORE
their opinion

EVALUATE
their understanding

ENCODE
their walk

I CAN COUNT ON GOD TO BE THERE FOR ME

Encourage the kids to take a practical **ACTION** step in their faith journey this week.

Help them memorize this month's **Spotlight Verse**.

Prepare to Give is for children's programs that take an offering.

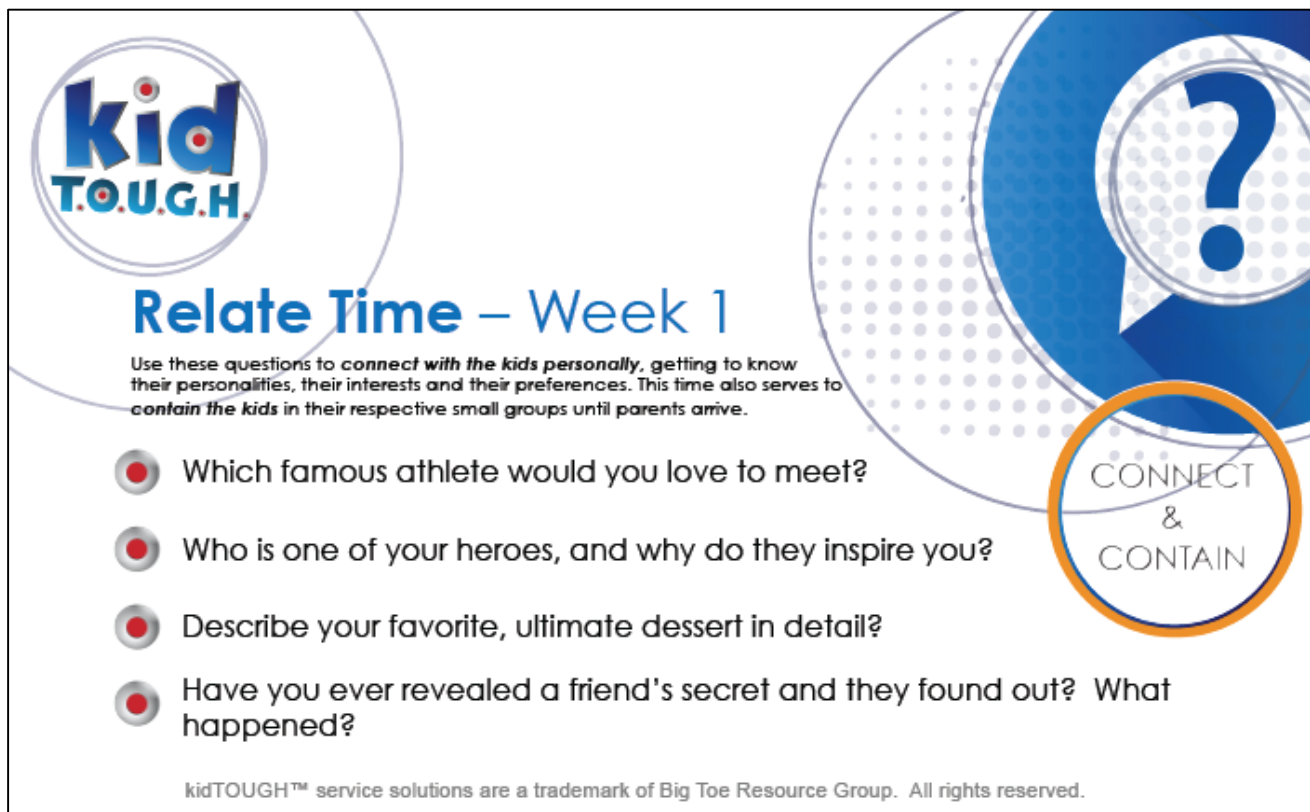
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Appendix

Relate Time Sheet

Print this for the small group bins. Small group leaders will use these questions during Close Time to *connect* with the kids, as we as *contain* them until parents arrive.

The graphic is a worksheet titled "Relate Time – Week 1". It features a Kid TOUGH logo in the top left corner. The main title "Relate Time – Week 1" is in a large, blue, sans-serif font. Below the title is a paragraph of text: "Use these questions to *connect with the kids personally*, getting to know their personalities, their interests and their preferences. This time also serves to *contain the kids* in their respective small groups until parents arrive." To the right of the text is a large, stylized blue speech bubble containing a white question mark. Below the speech bubble is a circular orange border containing the text "CONNECT & CONTAIN". At the bottom of the worksheet is a small line of text: "kidTOUGH™ service solutions are a trademark of Big Toe Resource Group. All rights reserved." There are four red circular accents, each containing a white dot, positioned to the left of each question.

Relate Time – Week 1

Use these questions to *connect with the kids personally*, getting to know their personalities, their interests and their preferences. This time also serves to *contain the kids* in their respective small groups until parents arrive.

- Which famous athlete would you love to meet?
- Who is one of your heroes, and why do they inspire you?
- Describe your favorite, ultimate dessert in detail?
- Have you ever revealed a friend's secret and they found out? What happened?

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Appendix

Parent Take-Away

Print this out to hand to parents as they pick up their children. These work best on card stock. Instruct the person who is handing these out to say something simple like, "This is what the kids learned today, and at the bottom are some family time questions you can lead at home."

WHAT WE LEARNED TODAY:

This Month's Series: Flipped
Week 1 – Thinking Flipped

This Month's Trait: TRUST – I can count on God to be there for me.
Bible Story: John 12:13-19 – The Triumphal Entry
Take-Away: Jesus flips our thinking HERE so we can be fit for THERE.
Spotlight Verse: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord." Luke 19:38 (NIV)



PARENT TOOLS:



WHILE YOU EAT: As a family, read John 12:13-19. What are some things you remember about the story of the Triumphal entry? What are some ways you can change up your schedule this week to focus more on Easter? Is there someone in your life that you can invite to Easter services next week?



WHILE YOU DRIVE: The crowd quickly went from cheers and praise to anger and disgust. Why did the people turn on Jesus so quickly? What were they falsely wanting out of Jesus?



BEFORE YOU SLEEP: Dear God, thank you for Your great love for us. Thank You for sending Your one and only Son, who made a way for us to be friends with God for eternity. We remember Jesus this week, and what He did for us on the cross.



Church Testimonies

What They're Saying

"I want to thank you for coming to Scotland and spending time, energy, and prayers to help our church run kidTOUGH. The first six months were a great success. We have particularly loved the fast paced format in the groups. We've found it to be incredibly conducive to really discipling our kids and getting them into the word of God, not just putting on a show or a program to keep them busy while the adults do their thing."

~ Ian, Renfrew, Scotland, UK

"In the last 18 months, we have seen our children's ministry grow by 25% since we started using kidTOUGH. Our team loves every aspect of the easy-to-use curriculum, from the content itself, various ideas on how to teach the lesson, service flow ideas and more, plus there is a wonderful training manual that can be shared with your team that is very user friendly. The kidTOUGH curriculum is very affordable, and we receive excellent support from the BTRG team. Our team HIGHLY recommends kidTOUGH; definitely worth the investment!"

~ Tammy, Maple Valley, WA

"kidTOUGH has been very successful. In seven weeks, we have increased attendance by 64%. Amazing! God is really blessing us. I just thought you might be happy to know that."

~ Teresa, Portland, OR

"This Sunday, we're finishing month four of our first five months of kidTOUGH, and we've been absolutely loving it! It's been a huge blessing for our leaders and the kids have really taken to it."

~ Ruth, Glasgow, Scotland, UK

"First, THANK YOU! We are really LOVING our KidTOUGH curriculum. We LOVE the format and the repetition and building of the curriculum! The kids really seemed to respond too."

~ Annie, Edmonds, WA

"I have enjoyed kidTOUGH and I have believed it to be solid and good. It has also saved me from re-writing. Yours is the only curriculum I have not had to rewrite."

~ Tammie, Lincolnton, NC

"All of the teachers who have been through a Sunday with this program love it, and do to the extra free time they have because they don't have to prep a lesson they have offered to do other things."

~ Doug, Olympia, WA

"I work full time as a Realtor, and part time as the children's Pastor. I cannot recommend this program highly enough. Jerry and his team have everything you need in each lesson. From the beginning game, power points, video clip ideas, take home sheets, and time killers everything you need and more is included in this program."

The most important thing is the children love it!!!! The teaching is relevant and Bible based. The take home cards are a favorite, and a way to encourage them to act on the truths they are learning.

I have had a much easier time getting volunteers as well. Small group leading is also easy now. The questions and answers are provided, and are very user friendly. I have been in children's ministry for 16 years in one capacity or another, and this is by far the best program I have seen."

~ Laura, Tumwater, WA



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