

HOW TO LEAD AN EXPEDITION

WORDS TO KNOW

Expedition – *Eureka!*'s word for a single lesson in the curriculum.

Discovery Guide – This is the student handout. Each student gets one per expedition.

Leader's Guide – This is what the teacher uses to lead the expedition.

Discovery – Also called a faith discovery. Discoveries are the core of the *Eureka!* curriculum. Kids are given tools each expedition to make key discoveries about their faith. Discoveries range from “God really loves me” to “I have more self-confidence by knowing that I belong to God” to “I think I need to forgive my sister.” We don't pre-determine exactly what these discoveries will be. Open God's Word, trust the Holy Spirit, follow the curiosity of the kids, and see where God leads.

Niki Knack's Gritty Journal of Adventuring – The resourceful explorer, Niki Knack, is our main expedition guide for lower elementary. She is a classically trained adventurer with all of the tools to traverse the world. Niki travels with her faithful sidekick, Kiwi the gerbil. He may be adorable, but he's as fierce as he is snuggly. Kids will get excited about Niki and Kiwi's adventures and want to come back each week to see where the duo heads next. Her journal will be printed in the *Discovery Guide*, and will have an audio version included on the DVD and CD if your class would like to listen along.

Eureka! Bible Passage – This is an abridged version of the Bible passage we created for each expedition. Many of the Bible passages we explore can be pretty long, so this gives you a quick and condensed version of each passage. The *Eureka! Bible Passage* stays true to the most common Bible translations.

My Discovery Relic – Each week, faith discoveries will be recorded on a relic as if unearthed on an expedition of an ancient world. Kids will get to design their own relic, found in the *Discovery Guide*.

Class Relic – Larger relics are used every second week to record an important class discovery from the passage. The class will look at all of their discoveries from the two weeks spent on each lesson, and decide on a relic that represents their discoveries. The *Class Relic* poster has eight relics you can punch out. Six are to use in class – one every other week – and two extras (in case a hungry gerbil eats the first one).

Relic Wall Poster – This poster will display the discovered class relics like a trophy case, helping the class keep track of the discoveries they've made over the past weeks together. The poster also displays mementos from the adventures of Niki. Display the completed class relic on one of the empty spaces on the shelves.



Eureka! DVD or CD – These media items include audio journals from Niki Knack, Bible memory videos, and three other music videos. The CD has audio versions of all of these items.

5 What's – These exploring questions make up the foundation of a strong Bible study strategy (hermeneutic) and form the fabric of *Eureka!* It won't be long before your kids have these down pat.

- **What's That Word?** – We explore different words in the passage. Kids have much more confidence during expeditions when they know the meaning of the words.
- **What's Happening in the Passage?** – We explore the people, setting, and action of the passage. We want to understand it and enjoy it. We try to empathize with and appreciate the people in the passage.
- **What's Happening in the Bible?** – We explore a different Bible passage to give us context for our original passage. We look to see God's big story unfolding in front of us.
- **What's This Say about God?** – God reveals himself through the Bible. We explore to know God. God teaches us about himself and His love throughout the Bible.
- **What's This Say about Us?** – As we learn about God and embrace His love for us, how do we react? What are we to do? Who are we? How do we live in God's love?

Savior, King, Friend – Included in *Eureka!* is a new language for talking about salvation with kids. It focuses on God's love for us, and the ongoing love relationship we have with Jesus.

- **Savior** – Jesus loves us as our Savior. He forgives us. We love Him as our Savior. We accept His forgiveness.
- **King** – Jesus loves us as our King. He protects us. We love Him as our King. We obey Him.
- **Friend** – Jesus loves us as our Friend. He never leaves us. We love Him as our friend. We offer Christ-like friendship to others.

Blank Index Cards – A few of our *Tell It* methods and *Remember Verse* activities use blank index cards or small pieces of paper. You can check out the *Exploring Supplies* list on each week's *Leader's Guide*, but it's also a good idea to keep a stash of blank cards in your room.

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BEFORE YOU EXPLORE - How to Prepare

- Read through the Bible passage for the day. Enjoy reading God's Word.
- Look over the *Leader's Guide*.
- Review the two *Tell It* methods until you're confident with both.
- Read through the discussion questions. Write down additional questions you think might help kids explore the passage.
- Pray for God's direction and guidance during the expedition.
- Gather the few supplies listed in *Leader's Guide*.
- Test out the method you will be using to play the video and audio pieces.
- Hang up the *Relic Wall Poster* and punch out the *Class Relics*.

PRE-EXPEDITION - As kids arrive for class

Prepare your kids to explore the moment they arrive. Build anticipation, focus their attention, and connect them with each other.

- Set out the *Discovery Guides* and pens or pencils so kids can read the newest entry in *Niki Knack's Gritty Audio Journal of Adventuring* as they arrive.
- Kids can even begin to decode the words in *What's That Word?* before class.
- Make sure your DVD or CD player is ready to go.
- Hang out with your kids and help them connect with one another.

LET'S GO EXPLORING

Open God's Word, trust the Holy Spirit, and see where God leads. Let's do this.

Transition

- Transition to the expedition by listening to *Niki Knack's Gritty Audio Journal of Adventuring* found on the *Eureka! DVD* or *CD*.

1: Remember Verse

- The *Remember Verse* inspires us to explore God's Word and live in God's love. We explore out of a response to who God is and who we were created to be.
- A video is provided to help kids learn each verse. An optional activity is provided on SundayTeacher.com.

2: What's That Word?

- This is a time set aside to explore a few words your kids may encounter during the expedition. This makes it easier for kids to understand the passage when they listen to the passage later in the expedition.

- Words come from the Bible passage, *Remember Verse*, or a theological theme from either.
- Give kids time to decode the words using the decoder in the *Discovery Guide*. They can work alone or in teams.
- Read and discuss the definitions together as a class.

3: Peaks and Pitfalls

- Use this time to listen, encourage, and pray for each other. We explore together, so help kids make real connections with each other.
- Invite kids to share something great happening in their life (Peak) and/or something not so great (Pitfall).

4: Hear It

- This is the first time for kids to hear the passage they'll be exploring. Have an adult or strong reader read the *Eureka! Bible Passage* to the class. Invite kids to just listen and picture the story as it is read.
- Of course, if the Bible passage isn't too long for your class, then you can just read the passage straight from the Bible.

5: Tell It

- *Tell It* methods are super interactive methods to explore, re-enact, and enjoy the Bible passage. They are crucial to the *Eureka!* experience. In other words, *Tell It* is serious fun!
- As a class, choose one of the two suggested *Tell It* storytelling methods.
- Instructions for the two suggested *Tell It* methods are in the *Leader's Guide*.
- Most *Tell It* methods involve important storytelling decisions. In order to maximize student ownership and engagement, make these decisions as a class.
- You'll find instructions for the *Tell It* method on page 4 of each lesson.
- The discussion and decision-making of *Tell It* helps kids analyze and internalize different parts of the Bible passage. This interaction is a strong learning tool, much stronger than lecture. It also gives kids an opportunity to practice their listening, discussion, and compromise skills with their peers and Christian leaders.

6: Embrace It

- This section provides kids quiet time to read and personally reflect on the story one more time. It's also a time to lower energy levels in preparation for discussion time.
- Quiet time isn't always easy for kids. (Shocker!) Try starting out with just 20-30 seconds of quiet time, and add a little more time each week.

- Encourage them to write down questions they want to ask about the passage later.
- To wrap up *Embrace It*, read the story out loud one last time.

7: What's Happening. . .

- This is discussion time guided by Exploring Questions #2 or #3. The first week in a passage will focus on “What’s Happening in the Passage?” The second week will focus on “What’s Happening in the Bible?”
- Be a good listener. Let them ask questions. Ask follow-up questions to help them sort through their thoughts, such as:
 - Tell me more about that.
 - Does anyone else have a thought about that question?
 - These are both great statements to keep the discussion going.

8: What's This Say about . . .

- This discussion time is guided by Exploring Questions #4 or #5. The first week in a passage will focus on “What’s This Say about God?” The second week will focus on “What’s This Say about Us?”
- Follow their lead. Follow the faith topics that peak their curiosity.
- Of course, if they want to talk about rocket-powered roller coasters, then it’s time to get them back on point. But as a general rule, follow their interests over your own.
- Nurture an environment that makes it easy for kids to speak up.
- Help kids identify and articulate their discoveries by saying something like, “That’s a very important discovery you just made. Great find!”

9: Record Your Discovery

- *My Discovery Relic* (Created by each student every week)
 - Each student will write or draw a faith discovery they made that day. There’s a space in the lesson for the teacher to draw a discovery as well.
 - Invite them to draw pictures, symbols, or words on the relic on the back of their *Discovery Guide*. This happens every single week.
 - These are personal discoveries. The student records what he or she felt was most important to them.
- *Class Relic* (Created in Week 2, Week 4, Week 6, etc.)
 - Think about discoveries made in the passage the last two weeks. As a class, choose a discovery to put on the *Class Relic*.
 - Discuss what could be drawn on the *Class Relic* to describe the discovery.

- Have a leader or student write or draw the discovery on the *Class Relic*.
- Use tape or glue to affix the *Class Relic* to the *Relic Wall Poster*. Keep collecting those discoveries! Look back at them as you move through each quarter.

Keep Exploring

- Send kids home with their *Discovery Guide*. Encourage them to keep exploring at home! There are a couple of activities on the back of their *Discovery Guide*.