

TRAILBLAZERS



Large Group

Trailblazers

Series at a Glance for Elevate

About this Series:

Where would you love to explore? The densest jungle? The deepest sea? This summer, we're taking an expedition to learn more about ourselves, and the amazing way God designed every one of us. Get ready to blaze a trail into the unknown, and discover some incredible things about God, our world, and ourselves.

Key Verses:

Philippians 4:7-8- "Then God's peace will watch over your hearts and your minds. He will do this because you belong to Christ Jesus. God's peace can never be completely understood. Finally, my brothers and sisters, always think about what is true. Think about what is noble, right, and pure. Think about what is lovely and worthy of respect. If anything is excellent or worthy of praise, think about those kinds of things."

Weekly Overview:

Lesson:	Title:	Big Idea:
	<u>Part 1: Who Am I?</u>	
Lesson 1: June 12/13	Trailhead Creation-Gen. 1, Eph. 2:10	I am uniquely created by God.
Lesson 2: June 19/20	In the Crew Zacchaeus-Luke 19, Rom. 15:7	I am accepted by God just the way I am.
Lesson 3: June 26/27	A new Horizon Moses-Exodus 3, Phil. 4:13	I am capable because God is with me.
Lesson 4: July 3/4	Back on Track Lost Sheep, Ps. 139:17-18	I am valuable to God.
Lesson 5: July 10/11	Outlook Point Paul- Acts 16, 1 Thess. 5:16-18	I can choose to have a good attitude.
	<u>Part 2: How Am I Influencing?</u>	
Lesson 6: July 17/18	Long Way Home Lost Son-Luke 15, John 3:16	I am loved by God no matter what.
Lesson 7: July 24/25	A Fork in the Trail Ruth	My choices impact others.

Lesson 8: July 31/August 1	Way-Words Eph. 4:29	I can choose words that make a difference.
Lesson 9: August 7/8	The Next Step Daniel 5-6	I can take a stand for what I believe.
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Lesson 10: August 14/15	<u>Part 3: Who am I Becoming?</u> Backtracked Joseph- Genesis 37, 45, 50:20.	I can see mistakes as chances to learn.
Lesson 11: August 21/22	Which Way? Samuel- 1 Samuel 2-3	I can do what's right when no one is watching.
Lesson 12: August 28/29	Into the Unknown Joshua- 1:9, 2 Timothy 1:7	God gives me the courage to do hard things.
Lesson 13: September 4/5	Onward! David- 1 Samuel 16-19	God has a purpose for me, wherever I go.

Trailblazers

Series at a Glance for Elevate (continued)

Lesson 1: Trailhead

Have you ever created something really special? A piece of art, a comic book, a Lego project, or an invention? When you create something, it matters to you. You take time to make it just the way you want it to be. This week, we'll explore what it means to be created by God and how that impacts our lives.

Lesson 2: In the Crew

We all want to be a part of a group. Sometimes we even try to change things about ourselves so that we can fit in with the people around us. This week we will hear about how Jesus accepted someone that most people rejected.

Lesson 3: A New Horizon

Life can be challenging. It can feel like we are on an adventure with mountains to climb, rivers to cross, and obstacles that get in our way. Sometimes we wonder if we really have what it takes to do the things God wants us to do. This week, we will discover how God showed a man named Moses that he was capable.

Lesson 4: Back on Track

Have you ever lost something that was valuable? When that happens, we do anything we can to find it! It is incredible to know that God thinks we are valuable – so valuable that he would do whatever it takes to be close to us.

Lesson 5: Outlook Point

A good attitude is amazing. It can turn something challenging into something fun. A bad attitude, though, can turn even the most fun things into frustrating, difficult, and boring ones. This week, we'll see how our attitudes can change the world around us.

Lesson 6: Long Way Home

Sometimes our mistakes and the wrong things we do make us feel like no one could ever love us. We might feel like we have to do all the right things so that we can earn God's love. This week, we'll hear the story of The Lost Son and learn more about the incredible love God has for each one of us!

Lesson 7: A Fork in the Trail

Sometimes, it's easy to believe our choices don't matter, that they don't affect anyone. This week, we'll hear how Ruth learned that her choices really do make a difference; and we'll see how our decisions can impact others today.

Lesson 8: Way-Words

Our words can be used to help or to hurt. In Ephesians, Paul challenges us to use words that build others up. We'll find out what that looks like this week!

Lesson 9: The Next Step

Daniel was in a new land with few friends. When others expected him to do things God says are wrong, Daniel had to choose whether to follow God or follow the people around him. This week, we'll discover the impact we can have when we stand up for what we believe.

Lesson 10: Backtracked

Imagine you've made a mistake. Something goes wrong, you mess up, but what happens next? Do you get angry? Give up? Blame someone else? Or could we see our mistakes in a different way? This week, we'll find out how our mistakes might even be a good thing.

Lesson 11: Which Way?

"Integrity" means doing what's right, even when no one is watching. This week, we'll hear how a man named Samuel chose integrity, even when others around him didn't.

Lesson 12: Into the Unknown

In the Bible, we see God tell people to be courageous, but it's not always for the reasons we'd expect. In Joshua's story, Joshua had to fight battles and lead a nation, but God said there was one thing he would do that would take even more courage than those things. We'll find out what it is this week!

Lesson 13: Onward!

King David's story doesn't start in a palace, it starts in a field. David was a shepherd, a musician, and a poet, and all of those were part of God's plan. As this new school year starts, we'll discover how everything we do is part of the way God designed us.

Trailblazers

Lesson Outline for Elevate

Lesson 6: Long Way Home

Lesson Segment	Total Running Time
Opening Song and Welcome (1:00)	
Team Time (11:00)	
Worship (4:00)	
Media Part 1 (4:00)	0:00 – 20:00
Group Time (10:00)	
Media Part 2 (6:00)	
Worship (4:00)	20:00 – 40:00
Team Time 2 (8:00)	
Media Part 3 (8:00)	
Application and Wrap-Up (4:00)	40:00 - 60:00



Video Cue



Slide Cue



Audio Cue



Tech Notes

Opening Song and Welcome

1:00



(Roll when directed) Elevate Opener

Do This: During the song, encourage kids to find a place to sit, and let them know it's time to get started.

Welcome everyone! I'm so glad you're all here! Come on up and find a place to sit.



(Auto advance) Elevate Slide and Underscore

My name is _____, and I'm so excited to be here with all of you! We've got some awesome games, stories, and music coming up, I'm excited to get started!

Elevate is an awesome place where we get to have fun and learn about God. It's also a place where we show respect. We respect the leaders in here by listening and following their instructions. We respect others by being kind and keeping our hands to ourselves. And we respect the room by being safe, and not damaging anything. Showing respect like that helps us all have an awesome time.

Team Time

11:00



Series Title Slide: Trailblazers and clear audio

The series we're in is called "Trailblazers." We're on an expedition to learn more about ourselves and the amazing way God designed every one of us. We are answering the question "Who am I?" and today we are going to discover that we are loved.

But first, let's get started with a game called "Pickle or Frog?"



Game Title Slide: "Pickle or Frog?"

Here is how the game works! On the screen you will see a very close up image of something. You will have to guess if what you are seeing is a pickle or a frog. Sounds pretty easy, but it is tougher than you think! If you think it is a pickle, I want you to stand up tall with your arms over your head to make a pickle shape. If you think the photo is a frog, I want you to squat down and look like a jumping frog.

Do This: Demonstrate the pickle or frog motions for the kids to see.

Ready for the first one? Let's get started!



Image 1

Pickle or Frog?

What do you think? Is this a pickle or a frog? If you think it's a pickle, stand and look like a pickle! If you think it is a frog, squat down and act like a frog.

Do This: Give kids time to choose their answers.

Let's find out!



Full Image of a frog

It's a frog! Let's try another one!



Image 2

Pickle or Frog?

What is your guess this time? Pickle or Frog?

Do This: Give kids time to choose their answers.

Let's find out!



Full Image of a frog

It's a frog again! These are tough. Let's try it again!



Image 3

Pickle or Frog?

What do you think this time? Show me what your guess is by making a pickle or a frog!

Do This: Give kids time to choose their answers.

Let's find out the answer!



Full image of a pickle

It's a pickle! Here is the next one.



Image 4

Pickle or Frog?

Is it a pickle or a frog? Make your guess!

Do This: Give kids time to choose their answers.

Let's find out!



Full image of frog

That was tricky! It's a frog in some algae. Let's keep going!



Image 5

Pickle or Frog?

Make your guess – is it a frog or a pickle?

Do This: Give kids time to choose their answers.

Let's find out!



Full image of a pickle

It's a pickle! Awesome work! Is anyone else feeling hungry for pickles now?



Image 6

Pickle or Frog?

Are we looking at a pickle or a frog in this one? Make a guess!

Do This: Give kids time to choose their answers.

Let's find out!



Full Image of a pickle

It's the inside of a pickle this time. Nice job! We are down to our last two!



Image 7

Pickle or Frog?

Is it getting any easier? What do you think – pickle or frog?

Do This: Give kids time to choose their answers.

Let's find out!



Full Image

It's a pickle again! Now I am really getting hungry. This is our final one! Make your best guess on if it is a pickle or a frog!



Image 8

Pickle or Frog?

Do This: Give kids time to choose their answers.

Let's find out the answer!



Full Image of a frog

It's a frog! You all did a great job! Those were tricky!



Game Title Slide: "Frog or Pickle" and clear audio

Next, we get to check in with our Trailblazing team and find out what challenge they're facing on their show: "Trailblazers."



Media Part 1 (4:00)



(Auto advance) Series Title Slide: Trailblazers

What a great question. Does God love me even when I make mistakes or do the wrong thing? That's what we'll get to talk about next, in group time!

Know This: You will have to decide ahead of time whether to do group time in small groups or as a large group. If there are enough group leaders, it is recommended to spend this time in small groups, divided up by grade. If that's the case, tell the group leaders one minute before their time is up, and skip the "Group Time" portion of the script. If you have to run this as a large group, move on through the group time portion of the script.

Group Time

10:00

The first thing we get to do is turn to someone near us and talk about this question.



Talk about a time where you earned a reward for doing something good.

Talk about a time when you earned a reward for doing something good. It could be related to sports or school. It could also be earning money for chores or earning a privilege for good behavior. Talk about that with someone near you!

Do This: Allow kids to talk for about 30 seconds. After they talk for a bit, you may ask 1-2 of them to answer out loud. If you talked to anyone who had a good answer during this time, you could also ask them to share it out loud.

I got to hear some great examples!



Series Title Slide: Trailblazers

Sometimes we might wonder if God will only love us if we do something good to earn it. If we do the wrong thing or make a mistake, will God stop loving us? I want you to check out this verse from the book of Romans, in the Bible.



Romans 8:39 – “Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can separate us. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God’s love. That’s because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done.

Do This: Read the verse from the screen.

Think about that for a minute. This verse says that NOTHING can separate us from God’s love. You can know that wherever you go and whatever you do, you are loved by God.

Take a look at this paper loop I have here and watch carefully to see what happens.

Do This: Hold up the puzzle for all the kids to see. As you are saying the next paragraph, start cutting the paper down the middle.

At times, we might wonder if our mistakes will separate us from God, kind of like my scissors are separating this loop. Maybe we disobey our parents or lie about something or hurt someone. Maybe we know something is wrong or hurtful, but we still do it anyway. Will those things separate us from God? Right now, these loops look like they have been separated.

Do This: When you are finished cutting the loop, hold it up and show the kids the loops have been separated.

But watch what happens as I let go of one of the loops.

Do This: Drop one loop and show that the two loops are hooked together.

Just like these loops didn’t separate, we can’t be separated from God’s love. The reason that nothing can separate us from God’s love is Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for all the wrong things we do. He made a way for us to be close to God, no matter what we have done.

God loves you so much and nothing you ever do will take his love away from you.

Let’s talk about another question.



Is it hard to believe that God loves you no matter what? Why or why not?

Is it hard to believe that God loves you no matter what? Why or why not? Talk about your answer with someone near you.

Do This: Let kids talk for about 30 seconds. After that, you could ask one or two of them to share their answers.

Believing that we are loved by God no matter what can make a big difference in our lives. We're going to check back in with the Trailblazer Team in a moment, but first, we're going to stand up and complete a challenge from our challenge wheel!



Challenge Wheel Video



(Auto-Advance) Challenge Wheel Slide: High 5 as many people as you can in 20 seconds!

High five as many people as you can in 20 seconds! Stand and get ready... set... go!



20 Second Countdown and fun music!

Great! Find a spot to sit!

Media: Part 2

6:00

Let's check in again with the trailblazer team, to hear a story about a son who made some wrong choices and the father who loved him.



Media Part 2 (6:00)



(Auto advance) Series Title Slide: Trailblazers

Wow, God loves us so much!

Worship

4:00

Let's stand up, stretch out, and sing about God's amazing love.



Worship Song 1 – Reckless Love



(Auto advance) Series Title Slide: Trailblazers

What a great reminder. God searched for us when we were lost and He would do anything to be with us. You can all sit down.

Decision Time

5:00

I want to take a moment to talk about the story you heard today from the Trailblazing Team. All of us might feel like the lost son sometimes, we have all made mistakes and have done things we know are wrong. We have lied or been unkind or disobeyed our parents. Those things are sometimes called sin and they separate us from God. But God is like the father in the story. He keeps on loving us no matter what and is waiting for us to decide to come back to him.

In fact, God loved us so much that he sent his son, Jesus, into the world to die on a cross and take the punishment for the wrong things we do. When Jesus came back to life, he proved that he was God's son and he made a way for us to be close to God.

Jesus loves each one of you so much and he wants to be your forever friend. If you are ready, you can decide to make Jesus the leader in your life today.

Some of you have already made this decision and that is awesome! This boot represents those of you who are already on the journey of following Jesus. If that is you, maybe there is a next step you can take to keep growing in your faith like reading your Bible or serving others.

Do This: Hold up the boot for the kids to see.

This walkie talkie represents those of you who still have some questions about what it means to follow Jesus.

Do This: Hold up the walkie talkie for the kids to see.

Just like we use a walkie talkie to talk to people, your next step could be talking to someone about the questions you have! The leaders here at church are always available to talk with you.

This compass represents those of you who are ready to make the decision to follow Jesus. Just like a compass can guide us, you are ready to trust Jesus as your leader and have him guide you.

Do This: Hold up the compass for the kids to see.

If you are ready to make the decision to follow Jesus, you can do that right now! We are going to take a minute to pray and ask Jesus to become the leader in your life. Let's all close our eyes so we aren't distracted by the people around us and if you are ready to make that decision you can pray with me right now.

God, thank you for loving me.
I am sorry for doing things
That I know are wrong.
I believe that Jesus is your son.
I believe that he died on the cross,
Took my punishment,
And came back to life
So that I can be forgiven.
Jesus, I ask you now
To be my leader,
Savior,
And friend forever.
I choose to follow you.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Congratulations to anyone who just prayed that prayer with me and decided to follow Jesus! That is the most important decision you will ever make! We would love to get you started on the awesome adventure of following Jesus by giving you one of these books.

Let's all stand up together. If you just decided to follow Jesus, you can go with _____ and they will answer give you this book and talk about any questions you have.

Do This: Wait for kids to follow the leader who will talk to them about their decision.

For the rest of us, let's stay standing and sing to God, who loves us so much.

Worship

7:00



Worship Song 2 – Movin' Me



(Auto advance) Worship Slide

Thanks for singing with me! Let's sing one more together!



Worship Song 3 – By Your Love



(Auto advance) Series Title Slide: Trailblazers

I love singing with you. You can all sit down.

Media Part 3

8:00

Let's see what crazy the trailblazer team has planned today!



Media Part 3 (8:00)



(Auto-Advance) Series Title Slide: Trailblazers

Wow! That was a fun game!

Application and Wrap-Up

4:00

We've learned a lot today. In fact, let's look back at the super important thing we should all remember.



Big Idea Slide: "I am loved by God no matter what."

I am loved by God no matter what. Whatever happens or whatever you do, nothing can separate you from God's love.

The Trailblazers talked about the story of the lost son. God is like the father in the story where he keeps on loving you and waits for you to come back to him. I've got something to give you that can help you remember what we talked about this week!



Trailblazer Guide Image: Week 6

Do This: Hold up the guidebook for this week.

Grab this book when you leave today! It's got super fun things to do in it. Here are a couple of them.

This one is all about who God says you are. It reminds you of all the things we have talked about the last five weeks. You can cut out this section and hang it somewhere in your room or on your bathroom mirror to remind you of how God sees you.

There are also a couple of experiments you can try. They are fun and they will remind you how much God loves you.



Series Title Slide: Trailblazers

Let's finish up by talking to God! Let's close our eyes and put our hands in our laps, so we can focus on what we're saying to God.

Do This: Pray with the kids.

God, you are wonderful. Thank you for loving us, no matter what. Help us to see ourselves the way that you see us. Amen.

I'm glad you were all here today! Have an amazing week, everyone.



Elevate Slide



Start free time music videos