

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 7: A Fork in the Trail

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.

Let's get started with a game called Strange Choices.



Game Title Slide: “Strange Choices”

I’m going to give you a choice between two things, and your job is to pick which one of those things you would like more. You’ll move to the side of the room that matches your choice. Ready?

Let’s give it a try!



Jell-O | Pudding (and fun game music!)

Do This: Read the screen, pointing to the side each choice is on.

Would you choose Jell-O or Pudding? Move to the side of the room you would choose!

Do This: Give kids 10 seconds or so to make their choice.

Know This: You may ask one or two kids why they made their choice, but be sure to move on to the next choice quickly.

Wow, interesting! Let’s see what our next choice is.



Covered in Fur | Covered in Scales

Do This: Read the screen, pointing to the side each choice is on.

Would you rather be covered in fur, or covered in scales? Move to the side of the room you would choose!

Do This: Give kids 10 seconds or so to make their choice.

Know This: You may ask one or two kids why they made their choice, but be sure to move on to the next choice quickly.

Wow, interesting! Let’s see what our next choice is.



Grass instead of hair | Spaghetti instead of hair

Do This: Read the screen, pointing to the side each choice is on.

Would you choose to have grass instead of hair, or spaghetti instead of hair? Move to the side of the room you would choose!

Do This: Give kids 10 seconds or so to make their choice.

Know This: You may ask one or two kids why they made their choice, but be sure to move on to the next choice quickly.

Those could be kind of stylish! Let's see what our next choice is.



Live on another planet | Live under the ocean

Do This: Read the screen, pointing to the side each choice is on.

Would you choose to live on another planet, or live under the ocean? Move to the side of the room you would choose!

Do This: Give kids 10 seconds or so to make their choice.

Know This: You may ask one or two kids why they made their choice, but be sure to move on to the next choice quickly.

Both of those could get a little lonely. Let's see what our next choice is.



Walk on your hands | Eat with your feet

Do This: Read the screen, pointing to the side each choice is on.

Would you choose to only walk on your hands, or only eat with your feet? Move to the side of the room you would choose!

Do This: Give kids 10 seconds or so to make their choice.

Know This: You may ask one or two kids why they made their choice, but be sure to move on to the next choice quickly.

That's a tough one! I suppose your hands would get dirty, but how would you eat with your feet? Let's see what our next choice is.



Have a pet crow | Have a pet bat

Do This: Read the screen, pointing to the side each choice is on.

Would you choose to have a pet crow, or have a pet bat? Move to the side of the room you would choose!

Do This: Give kids 10 seconds or so to make their choice.

Know This: You may ask one or two kids why they made their choice, but be sure to move on to the next choice quickly.

Wow, interesting! Let's see what our next choice is.



Ride a dinosaur | Ride in a spaceship

Do This: Read the screen, pointing to the side each choice is on.

Would you choose to ride a dinosaur or ride in a spaceship? Move to the side of the room you would choose!

Do This: Give kids 10 seconds or so to make their choice.

Know This: You may ask one or two kids why they made their choice, but be sure to move on to the next choice quickly.

It's kind of like asking if you'd go back or forward in time! Let's see what our next choice is.



Broccoli pizza | Jalapeno Ice Cream

Do This: Read the screen, pointing to the side each choice is on.

Would you choose broccoli pizza, or jalapeno ice cream? Move to the side of the room you would choose!

Do This: Give kids 10 seconds or so to make their choice.

Know This: You may ask one or two kids why they made their choice, but be sure to move on to the next choice quickly.

Those are interesting food ideas. Let's see what our next choice is.



Only be able to hop | Only be able to crawl

Do This: Read the screen, pointing to the side each choice is on.

Would you choose to only be able to hop, or only be able to crawl? Move to the side of the room you would choose!

Do This: Give kids 10 seconds or so to make their choice.

Know This: You may ask one or two kids why they made their choice, but be sure to move on to the next choice quickly.

Wow, that would be tough either way! Let's see what our last choice is.



Have wings | Have gills

Do This: Read the screen, pointing to the side each choice is on.

Would you choose to have wings and fly, or have gills and stay underwater as long as you want? Move to the side of the room you would choose!

Do This: Give kids 10 seconds or so to make their choice.

Know This: You may ask one or two kids why they made their choice, but be sure to move on to the next choice quickly.

What interesting choices! It's neat to learn more about each other like that.



Game Title Slide: "Strange Choices" and clear audio

Next up, we get to sing. We call this "worship," because we're singing to show that we love God.



Worship Slide

Worship

4:00

This song is about how amazing God's love is! Let's stand up and get ready to move and sing together!



Worship Song 1: Higher Than The Sky



(Auto Advance) Worship Slide

I love singing with all of you.

Media: Part 1

4:00

Next, we get to check in with the 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 thought. Do my choices really matter? Do they affect other people at all? 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.



What are some choices you have to make?

What are some choices you have to make? It could be small, big, or any choices in-between.

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! We all make choices every day, what to eat, what to wear, but also really big choices, like who to be friends with and deciding to do what's right.



Series Title Slide: Trailblazers

I think our choices make a big difference, and not just for us. The choices we make have an impact on the people around us, too. In fact, check out this verse.



Galatians 6:7-9- "A man gathers a crop from what he plants. Some people plant to please their desires controlled by sin... Others plant to please God. They will harvest eternal life."

Do This: Read the verses from the screen.

Paul, the writer of this verse, is using the example of planting good and bad seeds. Back then, many people were farmers, and they knew if you planted weeds on your farm, weeds would grow. If you planted good plants, though, good things would grow.

It's kind of the same in our lives. Imagine, every choice we make is like planting a seed.

Do This: Show kids two seed packets.

Our wrong choices are like planting weeds, hurtful plants with thorns. When we make those choices, it's like we're spreading those seeds around.

Do This: Pretend to spread the seeds on stage.

The thing is, seeds don't grow right away, do they? So sometimes we start to think: "It's no big deal I did that wrong thing," or "I got away with lying that time," or "It doesn't matter that I watched that movie my parents wouldn't have wanted me to. We think "It's not hurting anyone." What we forget is that these bad seeds grow, and grow, and grow, until they've taken over our lives, and that impacts the lives of people around us.



Image of garden filled with weeds

If we had a garden, and didn't care about what we planted in it, didn't take care of it, to make sure the seeds in it were all good, what would happen? It would become filled with weeds! The great news is, though, that we can plant good seeds in our lives as well. When we do good for others, serve, and are good friends, we are making a difference then, too, even if it's hard to see at first.



Series Title Slide: Trailblazers

So, how do our choices make a difference? One of the best ways to figure it out is by doing something called "playing it forward." That just means asking yourself "What will probably happen if I do this?" and imagining what could happen. Let's try a couple examples to see how this works.



(Pool image) Your parents said you were going to the pool, but something happened, and now you aren't going.

What could happen if you lost your temper and yelled at them?

What could happen if you said "I understand," and found something else to do?

Do This: Read the story and questions. Allow a couple kids to answer each one.

Great! Every one of you can imagine what might happen in that situation. If you yelled at your parents, it probably wouldn't help things much. You might end up not going to the pool, and in trouble as well. If you found something else to do, you'll probably feel better after a while. Let's look at one more.



(TV image) You're at a friend's house, and your friend wants to watch a YouTube video you know is inappropriate.

What could happen if you said "Ok," or didn't do anything?

What could happen if you said "I don't want to watch that one, let's watch a different one"?

Do This: Read the story and questions. Allow a couple kids to answer each one.

That can be tough. If you just said "Ok," it might feel ok right then, but then the next time you were there, they might do the same thing. They might think you're ok with all the things in that video, the bad words, the inappropriate jokes. Then, if they ask you to do more wrong things, it might be harder to say no.

If you ask to watch a different one, they'll probably be ok with it. If they're not, you could explain why you don't want to watch it or even go to a different room if you really have to.

Our choices make a big difference, whether we see it right away or not. We'll see what the Trailblazer team learns about choices in a minute, but first, it's time for a challenge wheel!



Challenge Wheel Video



(Auto-Advance) Challenge Wheel Slide: Touch three blue things and return to your place in under 20 seconds!

Touch three blue things and return to your place in under 20 seconds! The only rule is, you can't touch anyone else, the blue things have to be part of the room. Ready, set, go!



20 Second Countdown and fun music!

Great! You can all find a spot to sit.

Media: Part 2

6:00

Let's check in again with the trailblazing team to hear a story about someone named Ruth, who had important choices to make. Watch for how Ruth's choices grew and grew into something better than she probably imagined.



Media Part 2 (6:00)



(Auto advance) Series Title Slide: Trailblazers

Wow, our choices are so powerful.

Worship

4:00

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



Worship Song 2- Who I Wanna Be



(Auto advance) Series Title Slide: Trailblazers

Our choices are part of what makes us who we are. That song reminds us that we want to be people that share God's love and goodness with others. Next, we've got an activity to get us all moving!

Team Time 2

8:00

This activity is called "Get Off My Lawn."



Game Title Slide: Get Off My Lawn

This is a classic game! I'm going to pour out a ton of ball pit balls, and your job is to get them onto the other side of the room! The catch is, you can't cross that line in the middle.

Do This: Beforehand, make sure a line is taped across the middle of the room. Divide the kids roughly evenly down the middle using this line.

Remember, don't throw the balls at the other people, you want to throw them as far onto their side as possible, so they have to run to get them. You'll have four minutes to get the ball pit balls off your side, and onto theirs. Ready, set, go!

Do This: Pour out the ball pit balls.



4:00 countdown and fun game music!

Alright, let me see, who has the fewest ball pit balls on their side?

Do This: Roughly estimate which side has fewer ball pit balls on it. Declare that team the winners!

Quick, everyone pick up two ball pit balls and put them back in this bin! Then, you can find a spot to sit again.

Do This: Help kids pick up the ball pit balls.

Media Part 3

8:00

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



Media Part 3 (8:00)



(Auto-Advance) Series Title Slide: Trailblazers

Wow! What a race! Have you ever gone through one of those?

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: "Our choices impact others."

Our choices impact others. We read an example in the Bible of how choices are like seeds, that grow into good or bad things in our lives.

In the video today, they told us the story of Ruth, who made some great choices, that grew into amazing things. She chose to be a good friend and family member to Naomi, she chose to work hard, and she chose to be kind. All of those things grew, and changed Ruth's life, but also the lives of Naomi, Boaz, and the others in that story.



Trailblazer Guide Image: Week 7

Do This: Hold up the guidebook for this week.

Every week of this series, you're getting a small book, like this one. This week's book has some great ways you can practice "playing it forward" with your choices. In here you can write a decision you have to make and imagine what could happen if you make several different choices.

There's also a tool in here to help you create your own story, and even more fun things!



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 the following prayer with the kids.

God, you are wonderful. Thank you for loving us, no matter what. Help us to make wise, life-giving choices this week. Amen.

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



Elevate Slide



Start free time music videos