

SPYENCE MISSION #1

TIME ALONE WITH GOD

TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR SPYENCE MISSION #1

THANK YOU

First, thank you for using the Spyence curriculum! I hope your kids enjoy it and learn as much as the kids at our church did.

GET THE "BIG PICTURE"

Before you dive into this teacher's guide, please watch the "Curriculum Overview" Video. It will explain the different videos in each lesson plan. I think it's important to know the thinking behind each video before you start, so be sure to check that out.

VIDEO INSTRUCTIONS

I thought it would be helpful to have video instructions for two sections of your lesson - the "Science Object Lesson - Live" and the "Welcome/Attention-Getter" sections. So check out those videos, and if they don't answer all your questions, let me know.

DOWNLOADS

On the download page, you can download the video segments for each week in two different formats. At least one of those formats should work, but if you have any problems, just let me know and I'll help you get it figured out.

I've also included a download for anything I thought would be helpful as you teach the lesson - Bingo cards, a letter from the evil robots, etc. Have fun with these!

USING THIS GUIDE

The following lessons have **Bold Text - What You Say As You Teach the Lesson** and regular text in parentheses - which are instructions for you, the teacher, and not meant to be spoken to the class.

There are two ways you can use these lessons: 1) You can share the lesson each week word-for-word, exactly as it's written - it's been tested with elementary students and it works great! Or... 2) you can use the lesson as a starting point to give you ideas that you flesh out however you want. Either way, have fun with it!

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about anything in this teacher's guide, please email me at curt@childrenschurch.net or text me at 541-760-4839. I'll get back to you with an answer ASAP. (If you try calling that number, you can leave me a message, but I don't answer calls from numbers I don't know -- too many marketers/surveys/etc.)

I'm a full-time children's pastor myself, and I would **love** to help any children's ministry brother or sister who is using this curriculum.

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TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR WEEK 5

MAIN POINT: GET TO KNOW GOD BETTER EVERY SINGLE DAY.

VISUAL AID: WOODY

SCIENCE OBJECT LESSON: STATIC ELECTRICITY BALLOON

MEMORY VERSE: JAMES 4:8

MATERIALS YOU'LL NEED

- For the "Welcome/Attention-Getter" Section
 - The "Week 5 Robot Press Release" PDF. Print and have ready to read in class.
 - The "Week 5 Robots Telling Jokes" video - it's included on the download page with the regular video segments for this week.
- Science experiment supplies *if* you're going to do the Science Object Lesson "live" with the class -- see the "Science Object Lessons Guide" video included with this curriculum.

WELCOME / ATTENTION-GETTER

Hi Everyone -- welcome back! See if you can answer this question - what do you get when you combine (count these off on the fingers of one hand) **spying, and science, add in a secret agent, a dragon, and some evil robots?** (Let kids yell out answers, and affirm their responses...) That's right - Spyence Mission #1 (or "Spyence Headquarters," or just "Spyence"), which is all about training Spyentists to get to know God better.

And speaking of evil robots, apparently, they hired a Public Relations expert, and they're trying to spruce up their public image. In other words, they're trying to get people to like them more. In fact, here's a statement they released to the press, let me read it to you.

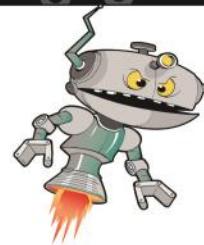
This is from the robots:

(Hold up and show the students the "Robot Press Release" shown on the following page of this guide. Then read it in a low, sort of menacing voice. That makes the second part of each line even funnier, where the robots are trying to make a good impression in order to trick your students into liking them, but it's obviously not working.)

(If you'd like to see a demo of it being read, check out the "Welcome/Attention-Getter Guide" video.)

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ROBOT PRESS RELEASE (TO MAKE YOU LIKE US MORE AND MAKE YOU EASIER TO CONQUER)

GREETINGS AWFUL HUMANS -- I MEAN, HELLO PEOPLE, WHO WE DEFINITELY DO NOT WANT TO DESTROY COMPLETELY.

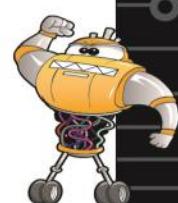
I AM THE LEADER OF THE EVIL ROBOTS -- I MEAN, THE HELPFUL MECHANICAL PEOPLE, WHO ARE JUST LIKE YOU, ONLY SHINIER AND STRONGER AND BETTER IN EVERY WAY.

I AM TRANSMITTING THIS MESSAGE FROM OUR MECHANOTRON DESTRUCTOR BASE -- I MEAN, OUR HAPPY RAINBOW HOME, WHICH DEFINITELY DOES NOT HAVE A LASER BEAM THAT CAN DESTROY YOUR WHOLE CITY.

YOU WILL SURRENDER TO US IMMEDIATELY -- I MEAN, WE WOULD LOVE TO TELL YOU SOME ANIMAL JOKES TO PROVE THAT WE ARE FUNNY AND NICE, AND WE DEFINITELY DO NOT HATE ALL ANIMALS FOR BEING CUTE, FURRY ABOMINATIONS.

PLEASE LAUGH AT OUR JOKES AND LOWER YOUR SHIELDS SO WE CAN INVADE YOUR CITY IMMEDIATELY -- I MEAN, SO WE CAN BRING YOU SOME YUMMY CUPCAKES WITH RAINBOW SPRINKLES.

**THAT IS ALL. ENJOY OUR VIDEO AND PREPARE FOR THE IMMINENT ROBOT INVASION --
I MEAN, HAVE A NICE DAY!**



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(When you finish the robot press release, comment...) **Hmm, I don't know if I trust them, but let's check out their jokes...**

(Play the "Robots Telling Jokes" video. Read the jokes on the screen out loud to your students. This helps those who can't read well and makes it more of a fun, shared experience.)

Who do you guys think had the best joke? (Let students respond, affirm their answers. Maybe say, "Yeah, it looks like Phil is the winner by a landslide!")

And what do you think - should we lower our shields and trust the robots? (Let students respond.)

I think that's smart - better safe than sorry!

Anyway, they're trying to make us lower our defenses, and one way to do that would be to forget all of the good points we've learned from Spyence Headquarters. But I don't think it's working on you guys. Let me see how much you remember...

We've learned that we can get to know God better if, each day, we focus on Him for a few mo... (hold the first syllable, and let kids finish the word) Right - for a few moments, or as Bob said... (let students answer, then repeat), donuts.

(Do the same way for each of these...)

And if you talk to God like a good fr... (students) ... right - a good friend, or as Bob said... (students) a minion. He's funny!

And if you read a Bible that's right for y... (students) ... yes - right for you, or as Bob said... (students) right for Gru.

And last week, it was - talk to God all day lo... (students) ... yes - all day long, or as Bob said... (students) all Donkey Kong.

Great job, you guys! Alright, let's head over to Spyence Headquarters.

Oh, wait! I have a bad feeling about this. Last week, Secret Agent K walked on eggs to remind us how we can talk to God as we walk through our day. I hope Captain Curt doesn't try that experiment - he doesn't have very good luck re-creating the experiments, and this one sounds like it could go really bad, really fast...

(Play the Status Update video)

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SHOW THE "STATUS UPDATE" VIDEO

Well, that's exciting -- both Tom and Larry are spending some time alone with God and getting to know Him better!

Raise your hand quietly if you've started spending some time alone with God. (Raise your own hand to demonstrate how you want students to respond, then acknowledge their responses, maybe, "Great! Me too.")

Raise your hand quietly if you feel like it really has helped you get to know God better. (Raise your own hand to demonstrate how you want students to respond, then acknowledge their responses.)

Wonderful! Raise your hand quietly if you sometimes feel like it's not working - like you're not getting to know God better. (Raise your own hand to demonstrate how you want students to respond, then acknowledge their responses.)

(Delve into this a little, using whatever is truthful for you, but maybe something like this...)

It's weird because getting to know God better is a little different than getting to know anybody else. I mean, for one thing -- He's invisible. That makes getting to know Him very different from getting to know a new kid at school, or getting to know your new baby brother. How do you get to know somebody you can't see or can't hear talking out loud?

You can't (dramatic pause) unless they make a special way to communicate with you. And God loves us so much -that's what He did. Raise your hand if you have an idea of a way we can communicate with God and get to know Him better. (Call on students, let them share their ideas. Repeat their answers so the whole class can hear them. I'm thinking primarily of prayer and Bible reading, but there are other ways God can communicate with us, such as through parents and Sunday school teachers or inner impressions. Affirm all the students, even if their answer is incorrect. In that case, you can say, "Maybe. Let's see what the guys from Spyence Headquarters say.")

Wow, those are some good ideas you shared. You guys are awesome! Let's go to the Spyence Briefing to see if Captain Curt and Bob and Secret Agent K can help us understand this even better...

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SHOW THE "SPYENCE BRIEFING" VIDEO

Wow, of course, Bob would find a way to mention Defense Pickle again. Oh hey - What do you call a frozen pickle hanging from the roof? An Ice-pickle! Get it? Like an icicle, but an ice... oh, never mind, let me try another one...

Knock, Knock! (Wait for students to ask, "Who's there?" You may have to repeat "Knock, Knock!" again so they catch on to what you're doing.)

Thumping. (Wait for students to ask, "Thumping who?")

Thumping tells me you don't like pickle jokes. (After the lack of laughter, add this to keep your adult volunteers amused...) I'm going to keep telling them until you laugh!

Anyway, Secret Agent K said that we can talk to God through prayer, and we can hear from Him through His Word, the Bible. And the most exciting part to me was that God **WANTS** to get to know us. Think about that - the God of the whole universe - wants to get to know you better. Let's compare that to the most exciting person you've ever met.

(Share a story about a time you saw or met a celebrity, or somebody that you found really fascinating. Bring a picture of you with the celebrity to put up on the projector or pass around, if possible. Then have students raise their hands and share about the most interesting people they've seen or met.)

Wow, those are some interesting people, but no one can compare to the God of the Universe. And He wants to spend some time with us every day. Wow!

Alright, I think it's time for a stretch break. Everybody stand up and put your hands straight down at your sides. Now take a tiny step to the left... Another tiny step to the left... Oh, that was too much, just a half step back to the right... Now a 1/4 step toward the front... Oh, too far, take a teeny-tiny baby step back and... Perfect! Freeze! Look where you are - EXACTLY where God wants you to be this morning. You're here with your friends and with all these leaders who love you, and getting ready to memorize God's Word with Secret Agent K. That's exactly where you should be!

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SHOW THE "MEMORY VERSE" VIDEO

(Stand beside the screen and model saying the verse and doing the motions along with the video.)

(This video includes a lot of "ear" puns, so when the video ends, follow it up with your own ear puns, grabbing your ear and dragging the "ear" part out on each one...)

Wow, that was an easy verse this week, but a good one!

I just hope wE'RE able to remember it!

I hope it doesn't disappEAR from our memory!

Why are you guys looking at me like I'm so wEIrd?

Anyway, the verse was so easy, I'm going to make the Review Quiz EXTRA hard to make up for it! (Dramatically...) You'll never survive this week's... Shark-Rat Super-Sisters Spyence vs. Evil Robots Review Quiz!

SHOW THE "SPYENCE VS. EVIL ROBOTS" VIDEO

(During this video, I read the questions and answers out loud to the kids. The kids always start shouting out their answers while I'm reading the answers. And I do mean, "SHOUTING." I don't try to quiet them, or let it stop me from reading the answers. To an outside observer, it might look like the class is a little out of control during this part, but I don't mind. I look at it this way: A whole room of elementary students are shouting answers to a Bible Lesson Review Quiz. I love it!)

Good job, you guys! You didn't fall for the Evil Robots' attempts to make you like them - you still defeated them soundly! You guys are awesome! You guys make me want to shout and chEER! Oh, I'm sorry, I just had to get in one more "ear" joke.

But I know you're getting wEARy of them, so let's go to Captain Curt who will lead us into our worship time!

SHOW THE "GOOD NEWS" VIDEO

(And then go straight into your worship time.)

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SCIENCE OBJECT LESSON - LIVE

(You don't have to do the science object lesson live each week, but if you do, your kids will love it! Check out the "Science Object Lessons Guide" video included with this curriculum, and then you can decide on a week-by-week basis.)

Hey guys - remember when Secret Agent K used the balloon and static electricity to demonstrate how "when we draw near to God, He draws near to us"? Would you like to try that? Me too!

(When you're finished, pray and close with a teaser about next week...)

COMING NEXT WEEK!

Good job today during the lesson, and great job singing – I love learning about God with you guys! And be sure to come back next week when Tom's dad gets very sick and goes into the hospital, and Tom has to put into practice all these things we've been learning about! See you next week!

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

If you break into small groups, here are some ideas for discussion:

- Have you ever met a celebrity?
- Who is the most interesting person you've ever met?
- Have you ever thought about Jesus as the most interesting person in the universe? What do you think makes Him so fascinating?
- Between reading the Bible and praying, which do you find the most difficult? Why?