

Olympion

2's & 3's Teacher Guide

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**Let us run with
endurance the race
that is set before
us, looking to
Jesus, the
founder and perfecter
of our faith ...
Hebrews 12:1-2**



Olympion Overview



Meet Olympion's Coaching Team

- **Head Coach**
VBS Director
- **Coach**
Classroom Teacher
- **Assistant Coach**
Classroom Teacher Assistant

What to Expect From Olympion

Children love Olympion; adults love its impact! By God's grace, here's what it will do in the lives of your children:

- ⊙ deepen their knowledge of and love for the Word of God
- ⊙ increase their enthusiasm for memorizing Scripture

Overall Focus and Bible Lesson Truth Summary

Our deep desire is that in tracing the footsteps of godly Joshua and the wandering Israelites, the children encounter God as they see Him revealed in His Word, and understand that He is entirely worthy of their utmost trust and total obedience. As the Bible Lesson Curriculum says, "The Book of Joshua teaches us the necessity of knowing who God is, the character of God as He is defined in the Bible, so that we trust Him wholeheartedly with our lives" (page 3).

Through the Bible lessons the children learn that:

- ⊙ God is faithful. His people can trust and obey Him or listen to their fears and disobey.
- ⊙ God's salvation is for anyone who will flee to Him for refuge.
- ⊙ In His mercy, God has made a way to justly destroy our sin.
- ⊙ Jesus is the Faithful One and the believer's ultimate inheritance.

*May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.*

*May His beauty rest upon me
As I seek the lost to win
And may they forget the vessel
Seeing only Him.*

*From the Hymn
"May the Mind of Christ My Savior"
by Kate Wilkinson*



Biblical Truths at a Glance

| Day | Bible Lesson | Daily Bible Reading |
|---------|--|---|
| Event 1 | <p>Fear leads to Disobedience</p> <p><i>Numbers 13:1-14:35, Deuteronomy 1:19-45</i></p> <p>Storyteller: <i>Volly the Vulture</i></p> | <p>Main Theme: God has shown his faithfulness over and over again. His people have to decide whether they will trust and obey Him or listen to their fears and disobey.</p> <p>Exodus 33:7, 9–11</p> |
| Event 2 | <p>Faith leads to Obedience</p> <p><i>Joshua 1:1-11, 16-18; 3:1-5-12</i></p> <p>Storyteller: <i>Jeriah, the Levite</i></p> | <p>Main Theme: God Himself is the One who brought His people into the Promised Land. When God’s people believe that He keeps His promises, they are able to be strong and courageous to obey Him.</p> <p>Numbers 32:11–12</p> |
| Event 3 | <p>God our Refuge</p> <p><i>Joshua 2; 5:13–6:27</i></p> <p>Storyteller: <i>Redeemed Rahab</i></p> | <p>Main Theme: God’s salvation is for anyone who will flee to Him for refuge. He is only One who can save and because He keeps His promises, He will rescue His people and destroy their enemies.</p> <p>Joshua 1:8–9</p> |
| Event 4 | <p>God our Judge</p> <p><i>Joshua 7:1-8:29, Romans 3:23</i></p> <p>Storyteller: <i>Rivka, An Israelite Widow</i></p> | <p>Main Theme: The story of Achan displays God’s holiness, justice, and the seriousness of sin, but also points to the mercy of God in making a way to justly destroy our sin. In Achan’s story, one sinned and many died. In Christ, One died that all who believe on Him might live.</p> <p>Joshua 6:2–5</p> |
| Event 5 | <p>Jesus the Faithful One</p> <p><i>Joshua 14, 23-24</i></p> <p>Storyteller: <i>Joshua, the old faithful leader of Israe</i></p> | <p>Main Theme: Joshua is now an old man whose inheritance of the land point us to our ultimate inheritance through Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Joshua 24:14–15</p> |

Olympion Glossary

Learning Olympion's "Sports Talk" is a key part of your preparation for VBS. Using athletic jargon will contribute significantly in creating an atmosphere of fun and adventure for your Athletes! Familiarize yourself with these terms, using them now as you plan for Olympion and, most importantly, during VBS itself.

| | |
|---|---|
| Arena | <i>Assembly room</i> |
| Assistant Coach | <i>Classroom teacher assistant</i> |
| Athlete | <i>Children</i> |
| Bible Exploration | <i>Daily Bible reading</i> |
| Coach | <i>Classroom teacher</i> |
| Course Instructions | <i>Announcements</i> |
| Daily Closing Ceremony | <i>Daily opening assembly</i> |
| Daily Opening Ceremony | <i>Daily closing assembly</i> |
| Head Coach | <i>Director</i> |
| League | <i>Grade groups:</i> |
| | <i>A League – Grades 5 and 6</i> |
| | <i>B League – Grades 3 and 4</i> |
| | <i>C League – Grades 1 and 2</i> |
| | <i>D League – 4's-K</i> |
| | <i>E League – 2's and 3's</i> |
| Learning Sites | <i>Hands-on activities (2s-K only)</i> |
| Olympion Finale | <i>Closing program</i> |
| Race of Life/Race of Faith | <i>Gospel Presentation</i> |
| Refueling Station | <i>Snack area</i> |
| Song Coach | <i>Song leader</i> |
| Training Center | <i>Classroom</i> |
| Training Log | <i>Student book</i> |
| Winners' Circle | <i>Small group review and announcements</i> |

Teaching 2's & 3's

E League

Caring for E League, Olympion's 2 & 3 year olds, is a precious ministry which blesses the entire program. E League toddlers (and their parents!) handle separation best when these littlest of Athletes are enjoying a simple, relaxed curriculum. Your ministry:

- ⊙ allows staff and parents to give themselves more fully to their roles
- ⊙ provides a creative, nurturing environment
- ⊙ teaches these little Athletes Olympion's basic spiritual truths

Using this Curriculum

The most effective way to implement this curriculum will depend on your:

- ⊙ facility
- ⊙ number of Coaches and Assistant Coaches
- ⊙ number of children
- ⊙ E League's specific age composition:
 - how many 2's, how many 3's?
 - do you have just-turned 2's and almost 4's?

This Teacher Guide provides you with:

- ⊙ insights and guidelines for working with very young children
- ⊙ a full, age-appropriate curriculum including:
 - daily schedule
 - lesson summary
 - memory work
 - lesson-related, hands-on learning activities
 - recreation plan

The key to success with 2's & 3's is:

- ⊙ prayer
- ⊙ good preparation & organization
- ⊙ flexibility!



Preparing for the Race

GETTING READY FOR OLYMPION

Prepare Your Heart and Mind

- ⊙ Prayerfully read through the Bible Lesson Curriculum, which is the heart and unifying thread of the entire program.
- ⊙ Attend Olympion training meetings to be spiritually and mentally prepared for your role, and pray and develop unity with other staff members.
- ⊙ Aim to pray for each activity and every child individually before coming to Olympion each day.



Olympion Portal

You can choose to subscribe to the online Portal for additional resources. Visit us at:
reachoutadventures.com/olympion

Your teaching materials include:

- Bible
- 2's & 3's Teacher Packet
 - Teacher Guide
 - Bible Lesson Curriculum and "At a Glance" overview
 - 2's & 3's Activity pages (reproducible activity pages in the back of this book)

COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

Classroom Coordinators for E League are responsible for the following:



Training Center Setup

■ Location

Ideally your class should be located in a room that is not a thoroughfare, has adequate space, easy access to a safe outdoor play area, and a bathroom nearby.

■ Decorations

Transform your classroom into the Athletes' "Training Center." Display visual aids at child level so they may be easily seen and touched when appropriate. Items not to be touched by the children should be hung from the ceiling or placed higher on walls.

■ Furniture

Tables and chairs should be child-sized, with plenty of room to walk around them. Have a higher table or shelf to keep materials easily accessible to Coaches.

■ Winners' Circle (circle time area)

Clearly designate a "Winners' Circle" area; use these suggestions:

- Spread out a boldly striped sheet, blanket, or area rug, or set out a ring of 12" fabric circles in the Olympion colors.

■ Safety

Safety check your Training Center and remove all untouchables. Make sure all electrical outlets are covered and window cords out of reach.

■ Cleanup



Olympion Portal

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reachoutadventures.com/olympion

Have a pail and sponge and/or disinfectant wipes, a broom and dust pan and/or vacuum, and garbage cans readily at hand for easy cleanup.

Training Center Supplies

- Device to play music
- pillows, mats, sleeping bags, or blankets for rest time
- Learning Site materials
- tissues, paper towels, cleanup and diaper changing supplies

Hands-On Activities

The daily schedule allows for two periods, which provide hands-on learning experiences.

■ **Arrival Time Activities**

These may be repeated each day or rotated for variety (see list on pages 10–11)

■ **Learning Sites**

Learning Sites are specifically designed to follow each Bible lesson presentation to reinforce the day's Biblical truths. Detailed instructions begin on page 16.

Unless your Director has already appointed a Learning Site Coordinator, delegate responsibility to one or more Coaches/Assistant Coaches for planning, setup, supervision, and takedown of daily activities. Note that *it is not necessary to use every lesson-specific Site each day*; select those you believe will be most effective and manageable in your particular situation.

Olympion Finale (closing program)

Ask your Director if your League will sing a song and/or recite your memory verse in the final closing program for family and friends; if so, plan to practice on events 4 or 5.

Backup Ideas

Have music, relevant picture books, a list of stand-up exercises and other backup activity ideas on hand to use if the need arises.

Clock Patrol

Keep your League on schedule!



Training Center Rules

Clearly explain your rules concerning the use of toys and materials, snack time, obedience, and getting along with the other children. Gently but firmly discipline when necessary, according to your church's policy.

Developmental Realities for 2's & 3's

■ **General**

The first reality to consider for these little ones is the significant developmental span between the “just 2’s” and the “almost 4’s.” Be sure to learn the age of each child and *adjust your expectations accordingly*; otherwise you may make the mistake of underestimating the petite child and expecting too much of the faster-growing child.

■ **Physically**

These children are very active and need lots of space in which to move around. Be flexible about their sitting down for the Bible story; some will need to get up and touch the visual aids. Many of them will have only beginning coloring skills and may need assistance in placing their stickers.

■ **Emotionally**

2’s & 3’s need lots of approval, some individual attention, and full acceptance of the unique person God has created each one of them to be. Allow each child to be special! Try not to hurry them, and watch for indications of frustration *before* behavior problems arise. If a child is having a difficult time, provide an alternate activity. Pressuring a resistant child usually leads to tears, class disruption, and the need to take Mom or Dad away from her or his VBS assignment.

■ **Spiritually**

Coming from the homes of your event staff, most of the children receive their primary Christian teaching from their parents and Sunday School. Your teaching should be seen as an adjunct to their Christian education. Reinforce basic Gospel truths and reduce lesson material to an extremely simple narrative form. Encourage the children to pray. Their prayers may sound like mumbling to you, but their heavenly Father hears them very clearly!

■ **Cognitively**

Children of two or three learn with simple rote—repeat, repeat, repeat! And because they learn with their whole bodies, do as much with drama, hand motions, sounds, and other sensory activities as possible! (Don’t ask them to learn just by sitting and listening to accommodate an adult teaching style of “teaching by talking.”) Appeal to the children’s curiosity. Remember that the attention span is very short at this age, so alternate busy and quiet activities. Make learning fun and leave the children with wonderful memories of Olympion!