



Strategy

Align leaders and parents to lead with the same end in mind

First Look **INCITES WONDER** in the heart of preschooler. The **FIRST LOOK** curriculum is designed so that each preschooler will grow up believing that:

- God made me.
- God loves me.
- Jesus wants to be my friend, forever.

252 Basics PROVOKES DISCOVERY in the heart of a child. The **252 BASICS** curriculum is designed to shape identity through planting these truths in the heart of every elementary-age child:

- I need to make the wise choice.
- I can trust God no matter what.
- I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

XP3 Students FUELS PASSION in the heart of a teenager. The **XP3** curriculum is designed to leave middle school and high school teens with the lasting understanding that:

- I am created to pursue an authentic relationship with my Creator.
- I belong to Jesus Christ and define who I am by what He says.
- I exist every day to demonstrate God's love to a broken world.

Message

Craft core truths into engaging, relevant and memorable experiences

First Look emphasizes a monthly bottom line through creative, interactive and age-specific activities. Storytelling in this nurturing environment introduces preschoolers to the Bible and applies it to their everyday lives.

252 Basics uses Bible stories to teach core virtues, because the story of God reveals the character of God. Each principle is supported by a weekly Bottom Line—a short phrase so easy to remember that it can be reinforced at home throughout the week. Our primary goal is to help kids grow in faith, wisdom and friendship like Jesus in Luke 2:52: *“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”*

XP3 Students provides topical series focused on the wonder of who God is, the discovery of who you are and how you relate to God, and the passion we should have for one another. Each series highlights one, two or all three of these experiences in order to move students beyond information to a relational encounter with God through a large group/small group format.



Family

Cue parents to act as partners in the spiritual formation of their children and to fight for relationship

First Look cues baby and toddler parents through a monthly Parent Talk, giving them support during this stage of life. We also cue preschooler parents through the monthly or weekly piece, Small Talk. Small Talk provides summaries of each Sunday's lesson and equips parents with ideas to integrate Sunday's learning into everyday activities with their child throughout the week through

- Drive Time
- Play Time
- Bath Time
- Cuddle Time.

252 Basics believes it's important for parents and church leaders to be on the same page to have a greater impact in the life of kids, so we provide the following resources.

- Family Experiences (FX) are large group productions bringing parents and kids in the same room to enjoy storytellers, comedic performers, short videos, and high-energy music together.
- Parent Cues are take home notes for parents about what their child learned that day, including specific things to ask their child on the ride home.
- GodTime cards are weekly devotionals for kids and parents to do together (K-3rd grade) or for kids to do on their own (4th-5th grade).

XP3 Students cues parents of middle school and high school students by providing the Parent Cue with every series.

- The Parent Cue provides the student ministry with articles to champion parents as they fight for relationship with their children. This content can be sent via e-mail, newsletter or posted on a parent blog.
- The Parent Cue also gives parents a description of what is talked about each week in the series to help them connect with their child about spiritual issues, and a question after each session to prompt both a parent and a student to dialog about those issues.
- Parents are also encouraged to participate along with their teens in some of the experiential activities tied to specific XP3 series.

Community

Connect everyone to a caring leader and a consistent group of peers

First Look **introduces** preschoolers to the small group experience. This safe environment builds trust as children learn about God through the loving care of leaders who give them first impressions of the Bible and prayer.

252 Basics **continues** to build on a child's experience of community by creating opportunities for life-change through small groups. At this stage, children want a consistent group of peers led by the same caring leader each week. These safe environments allow children to process truth in a safe place and develop strong relationships.

XP3 Students **elevates** the role of the small group as a reliable and trustworthy environment to work through truths with peers and a dependable adult leader. In this context, students can learn to take more personal ownership of their faith while wrestling through questions and difficult ideas in a safe place. Also, through the Next Step, small group leaders encourage students to continue to internalize the truths discussed through a variety of activities including Scripture memory, devotionals, service, etc.

Influence

Create consistent opportunities to experience personal ministry

First Look offers opportunities for preschoolers to look past their personal relationships and help those outside the circles of family and friends through **one** practical outreach opportunity per year, such as the annual “Coats for Kids” drive.

Elementary school kids are growing up in a bigger, more connected world than their parents or even older siblings. 252 Basics lays a solid foundation for a Christian worldview by offering **three to five** local and/or global ministry projects in which kids can give of themselves every year, as well as emphasizing practical ways they can serve every day in the world right around them.

For teenagers to feel significant, they need to be given something significant to do. Ideas for **six to eight** events a year are provided in the context of a series encouraging student ministries to participate in the lives of others—ranging from families in their church or other students in their small group, to participating in a global movement helping kids around the world. The goal is to motivate teenagers to be the church and not just attend church.