**Beginning of Every Day**

1. **Introduction**
   1. Lead adult walks in to music (we used well-known spy theme songs - check out the “Secret Agent Spy Lounge” playlist on Spotify to get ideas), dressed like a spy (trenchcoat, briefcase, sunglasses, hat, magnifying glass, etc.). Use this time to creep up on the kids. Be silly; crawl, hide, peek, etc. The more the kids laugh, the better.
   2. Lead adult could be called “M”
   3. “Welcome to Special Agent Training Week! All this week, we will learn how God has called different people to be special agents for God. We will learn how each Bible character said yes to God’s call in their lives, and how they completed their mission. We will also learn how God calls us to do the same missions that the Bible characters were called to do.”
   4. Different Stations = Completing Parts of Training to be an Agent
      1. Explain the different stations you may incorporate. See our master list for a suggested schedule.
2. **Rules**
   1. The 3 R’s
      1. Respect God
         1. Quiet during prayer and Bible Story time; Take the lessons seriously; etc.
      2. Respect Others
         1. Hands to yourself; listen when someone else is talking; let others in your class have a good experience; etc.
      3. Respect Yourself
         1. Listen; participate; don’t be too cool (this is a great one for the older kids); LET YOURSELF HAVE FUN!
   2. Stealth Mode
      1. This is your way to command the room. If kids get too loud or crazy, yell “1-2-3 STEALTH MODE!” and the kids strike their favorite spy pose, freeze, and get quiet. Be sure to “practice” Stealth Mode every day. It’s fun for the kids, and the more they do it, the more they respect the rule. We usually did “stealth mode” three times in a row, so the kids could strike different poses. This worked like *magic*.
3. **Team Competition**
   1. Any team names are fine, but it’s fun to name your teams by popular spies or secret agents. Our outdoor games team was “Men in Black” and our snack team was “MacGuyver.”
   2. Have a contest every day to see which team can cheer the loudest. Repeat as needed/desired. This is also where we introduced our service project, since we competed between teams on who could bring the most food items for our local food pantry.
      1. Sherlock (preschool)
      2. Bosley (kindergarten)
      3. Nancy Drew (1-2)
      4. 007 (3-4)
4. **Recap**
   1. Each day, review the past lessons (all of them, even on the last day). The more repetition, the stickier the material becomes. Remind them each day of the character, their story, the Memory Verse, and the Secret Code. Have them recite the Memory Verse and Secret Code every day at least three times. If you are having trouble with participation, remind them that memorizing these codes is an important part of Special Agent Training. You can also turn this into a team competition.
5. **Agent of the Day**
   1. Introduce Character
   2. Backstory
      1. This is the part where you give background information on the character and also explain how God called them.
      2. Use the stories printed in the Small Group material as a jumping off point. The more “mysterious” language you use in your storytelling, the more intrigued the kids will become. (For example: the three angels that Abraham blessed were “undercover spies.” Moses encountered a *mysterious* burning bush that did not burn up. Esther’s whole mission was done “undercover” since no one knew she was a Hebrew. Mary and Mary had to solve a “missing body” mystery.)
      3. Another option for Large Group character introduction: act it out! If you have adults or youth that love to be onstage, let them!
   3. How character completed mission:
      1. This is when you tell the story of how the character said yes to the call and completed his or her special mission.
   4. Memory Verse
      1. Recite at least three times together.
6. **Today’s Mission**
   1. Introduce Code
      1. Depending on how much drama you would like to incorporate, this could be well “performed.” Pull out a piece of paper from a briefcase, or tape the code under a person’s chair and have the kids look around the room for the code; or have an adult volunteer dressed up like a secret agent drop off a briefcase in the front then whisper something in your ear. Or, if you do not have time for this type of drama, just tell the kids that you received a special code, but you can’t figure out how to decode it.
   2. “Your mission, should you choose to accept, is to decode this message. Once your team has decoded the message, do not tell any other agents. Report back to me at the end of the day.”
7. **Stations reminder for teachers**
8. **Pray and Break**
   1. After the prayer, we had all the kids stand up and hold their arms out like an alligator. I said “1-2-3” and we all yelled “BREAK!” as they clapped their hands together.

**End of Every Day**

1. **Report Secret Code**
   1. Have the kids recite the Secret Code together at least three times
   2. Thank them for helping you decode the message.
2. **Recap Story**
   1. This will have been at least the third time they have heard the story today. That’s GOOD! Let them help you retell it. Ask them questions, and let them answer. You could even ask for volunteers to come up and help you retell the story.
3. **Recite Memory Verse**
   1. At least three times together.
4. **Application**
   1. Help the kids make the connections. They will have discussed some application points in Small Group, but remind the kids that we are called the same way that particular Bible character was called as well.
   2. **Examples**: Abraham was called to bless others and so are we. How will you be a blessing today? God was with Moses when God called him to complete a big mission. God also promises to be with us as we complete our missions. How does God help you? Esther was able to save her people because of the position she was in (queen). We are also able to do good no matter where we are. How can you do good today? Mary and Mary were called to spread the Good News that Jesus is still alive, and we are called to do the same. Who will you tell about Jesus today? God called the disciples to spread God’s love to the entire world! That mission still isn’t complete, so God has called us to help out with this huge mission. Will you say yes to God’s call in your life today? How will you spread God’s love to those around you and the rest of the world?
5. **Pray and Break**

**Tips:**

* Energy level must be at an all time high during large group, especially since this is usually done at the beginning of the morning. If you appear to be excited, engaged, and ready to become a special agent for Christ, so will the kids. If the energy is low, challenge them to be louder.
* Use Stealth Mode both for fun and to command the room. I even used it sometimes in the middle of a sentence when I was storytelling to shake things up a bit.
* Voice volume and inflection is so important. If you want them to really hone in on one part of the story, lower your voice as if you are telling them a secret or something really important as a special agent. Any time you come to an interesting part of the story, tell them it is “classified” information.
* When talking about your service project, explain to the kids how this is one way we are saying yes to God’s call in our own lives to bless others and to spread God’s love. Relate the service project to the stories they are learning this week.
* Remind the kids not to tell other teams the Secret Code. Explain that we want each team to have the same chance at decoding the message. This falls under “Respect Others.”
* If you find yourself with extra time before moving to the next station, challenge the kids to an army crawl race. We allowed the kids to army crawl out of our large group setting on the last day with their spy gear on; they had a blast.