

Frequently Asked Questions

Pricing & Availability



How much does Rio cost?

Rio costs \$129.99 per quarter, per age level for each Rio Basics kit. This kit gives you all the resources you need for ten children.

When will the Rio Essentials resources be available?

Resources will be posted on the website starting July 2010 for those who have purchased Rio.

What's the refund policy if I decide to cancel?

Rio has a 100% satisfaction guarantee. You may return it at any time for a full refund if you aren't satisfied with the curriculum.

Whom can I talk to regarding my questions?

For any technical, sales, or product-related questions, you can call 1-800-426-6596.

Can I purchase individual months of curriculum?

Rio is offered on a quarterly basis. This gives you three months of curriculum at a time.

Can I put Rio on an automatic order plan?

Yes, you can. By placing Rio on an automatic order plan, you will be shipped new curriculum at the start of each quarter. If your needs change, you can easily call us to update the quantities associated with your automatic order.

What if I have more than ten kids in my group?

We provide leader guides, activity pages, and Family Cards for separate purchase.



Product Questions

What is Rio?

Rio is a dynamic new way to engage children, leaders, and families with the work and Word of God through both printed materials and online resources. Rio uses the popular classroom model and provides the best in spiritual formation for your leaders and kids. Launching with a curriculum for first through sixth grade, the two-year Scope and Sequence is God-centered and provides full Bible coverage within the context of God's grand story.

What is the traditional classroom model?

This is the model of having children separated by age level where they remain with a single leader (or leader team) throughout the entire lesson.

Where can I find what will be taught this year?

You can download Rio's scope and sequence by [clicking here](#).

How does Rio support the family?

Rio supports the family by helping the church be their hero. That means Rio provides you with resources and training that will help you support the family. Some of these tools include the monthly Family Cards, each tied to a unified unit theme so the whole family can talk about what God's doing; customizable *Family Currents* e-newsletters to equip and nurture parents in their own faith walks; forums; blogs; and more.

Our church uses a traditional classroom model for our children's ministry. Do you recommend Rio for us?

Yes! Rio has been specifically designed for the traditional classroom model.

Our church uses a large group/small group model for our children's services. What do you recommend for us?

We suggest you take a look at [Tru](#). Tru has been designed specifically for those who use the large group/small group model.

How will Rio support me in my ministry?

Rio is dedicated to giving you tools that will help you make your ministry a success. We will be offering various training resources such as videos, articles, and event ideas for both you and your team. You will also be able to be a part of an online community made up of other Rio churches where you can swap ideas and seek additional support.

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What age levels will be available at launch?

Rio currently has materials for the Early Elementary, Elementary, and Preteen age levels.

What resources are planned?

Rio will have a variety of resources available to you, such as training videos, downloadable training event tools, weekly Quick Start videos, informative articles on children's ministry, community forums, and a customizable family newsletter.

Can I burn extra copies of my lesson resources DVD?

You must request permission from [customer service](#) to make a copy of your DVD. If you lose your DVD, contact [customer service](#) to request a replacement disc.

Glossary of Terms

Classroom Model

By classroom model, we mean a structure of Christian education that primarily employs an adult being paired with a group of children or youth. Sometimes referred to as a traditional model, the classroom model for Rio is akin to a small group model because of the relational nature of the curriculum.

Formational

Formational education is an approach to learning that integrates biblical knowledge with knowing God from personal encounters with Him and His living Word. The goal of formational learning is transformation—effecting change in the person, not just the person's behavior.

Global

A global perspective is having eyes to see beyond the myopic condition of one's single life. This perspective is not only knowledgeable about the greater world that exists outside of one's personal experience, but it also seeks to participate in and resource the world in strategic ways that will maximize impact.

God-Centered

Our curriculum and products center on God and not the self. Much curriculum available is child-centered and views God from the lens of self or another person. The God-centered approach informs us about what we are trying to learn about God—not David, Solomon, Esther, or any other Bible figure.

God's Grand Story

Rio presents the stories of the Bible in the larger framework of a metanarrative that emphasizes God's self-revelation in His Word and helps form a worldview that is congruent with God's truth.

Informational

Informational education is an approach to learning that focuses on the facts and the content from an analytical and linear point of view. Informational learning encompasses mastery of the whole, memorization, and identification as a goal.

Intentional

Being intentional means that everything we do—from leader and family training to lesson activities—has been crafted to be God-focused, build Bible study skills, and help kids understand each Bible story in the context of God's grand plan.

Leader

To lead means to go before and show the way. Rio leaders are typically volunteers who guide children through weekly lessons; they are in relationship with students and families and can be described as shepherds, mentors, and friends.

Lesson Flow

Rio's lessons aren't done step-by-step, but rather have a flexible flow—allowing leaders to spend time in the places where they feel the Spirit moving, as well as giving the kids time to respond to God in their own way.

Moral Formation

Moral formation is the personal and social transformation of one's actions. Developmentalist Lawrence Kohlberg outlined six stages of moral thinking and behavior. The early stages focus on moral formation merely being the outward obedience to an authority dictating how to behave, while the latter stages offer a critical thought process and heart change to see the values on self and others for living morally. While moral formation is important, we often don't teach toward higher moral development and create a culture of "doing" without the heart and mind behind it.

Overflow

God has promised that He will fill our cups to overflowing, and we believe that leaders should be sharing from the overflow of their own lives rather than just going through a list of lesson points. We want the leaders to be just as engaged and touched by the Holy Spirit as the children they serve.

Practitioners

In the church, there are paid and unpaid contributors to God's kingdom and His agenda for each generation. The word "practitioner" includes both paid and unpaid members of the ministry who are working together for the common goal of making Christ known.

Relational

God created each person with a deep desire to be in meaningful relationships. So when we say we are relational, we mean that everything we do is designed to nurture and enable relationships that people have with each other and with God.

Scope and Sequence

Simply put, a plan that articulates what material will be covered and in what order.

Spiritual Disciplines

Spiritual disciplines are biblically-based actions that can be engaged in individually and corporately. They cultivate a right attitude toward God and are useful to building a stronger relationship with Him. Spiritual disciplines include actions such as studying Scripture, fasting, prayer, serving others, contemplation, and so on.

Spiritual Formation

The phrase "spiritual formation" comes from Galatians 4:19, where Paul writes to the churches that he longs for the time that "Christ is formed in you." We believe "spiritual formation," "sanctification," and "discipleship" are equivalent terms with the same aim as that of Paul in Colossians 1:28–29: "that we may present everyone perfect in Christ."

Spiritual Parenting

A philosophy of parenting in keeping with the biblical mandate that parents are primarily responsible for the spiritual nurturing of their children. Also, a resource that will help equip parents and extended family in their biblical role. The primary distinction is that of creating space for the Holy Spirit, the best teacher of faith, to work so that true transformation takes place in each child.

Tough Topics

Inevitably, topics come up that may feel embarrassing or hard to answer. These could be about sex, abuse, or questions about God's character. Tough Topics is a Rio resource designed to help both the leaders and parents prepare themselves to talk to their kids about these issues.

Unifying Theme

A unifying theme shows how one idea ties many different stories and topics together into one larger story. Rio's Scope and Sequence is developed along God-centered, unified themes, enabling families with children of different ages to engage in faith discussions.