

DIRECTOR



LEADER GUIDE

Be sure to familiarize yourself with the contents of your Resource Download.

Download from
AnswersVBS.com/junglresources

See page 21 for a content list.

Director Guide

To make your job as VBS Director easier, make sure you

- ✓ read the *Director Guide* completely.
- ✓ check out the Resource Download thoroughly.
- ✓ spread out all the materials that came in your kit.
- ✓ browse the other leader and teacher guides to become familiar with all aspects of this VBS.



COURSE

Day 1 Creation

Day 2 Corruption and Catastrophe

Bible Passages

All Is Good
Genesis 1

All Sin
Genesis 3, Genesis 6–9

Memory Verses

Genesis 1:1

Psalm 14:3

Animal Pals

Eden the Green Parrot

Tox the Blue Poison Dart Frog

Apologetics Focus

Examining how it all began—man's ideas or God's Word?

Examining the reality of a global flood

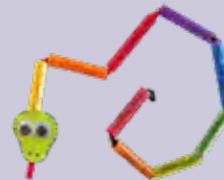
Tree-mendous Crafts



Face Planter



My Bug Jar



Straw Serpent



Rainy Day Rain Gauge

Tree-mendous Science

Order Disorder

Stack the Layers

Fallen Foliage

Catastrophic Eruption

Rainforest Recreation

Jungle Obstacle Course
Sea and Sky Tag

Tox Tag
Rainy Relay

Canopy Café Snacks



Dirt Dessert



Forest Fruit



Serpent Snack



Tree Treat

Cool Contests

Guess the Beetle Bugs

Team Spirit Day



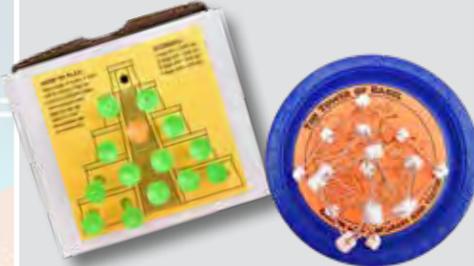
OVERVIEW



Day 3 Confusion

Day 4 Christ and the Cross

Day 5 Consummation

<p>All in Confusion Genesis 11</p>	<p>Savior for All Who Believe Various Scriptures</p>	<p>All Is Good Again Revelation 21-22</p>
<p>Genesis 11:9</p>	<p>John 1:12</p>	<p>Revelation 21:4</p>
<p>Scatter the Silverback Gorilla</p>	<p>Rose the Pink River Dolphin</p>	<p>Bliss the Bird-Wing Butterfly</p>
<p>Examining where the people groups came from</p>	<p>Examining the need for a Savior</p>	<p>Examining how it turns out in the end</p>
 <p>Tricky Triangle Game Toothpick Tower</p>	 <p>Christmas Ornament Easter Diorama</p>	 <p>7 C's Bracelet or Necklace Beautiful Butterfly</p>
<p>Skin-Deep Tower Test</p>	<p>Don't Eat Me! Ring Around a Tree</p>	<p>Cycling in the Jungle Good Again</p>
<p>Confusing Competitions Babel Bricks</p>	<p>Capture the Gifts Cross Kickball</p>	<p>Seven C's Splash Coconut Launch</p>
 <p>Shades of Pudding Parfaits Wacky Mixed-Up Trail Mix</p>	 <p>Gospel Goodies Nativity Nibbles</p>	 <p>7 C's Boats Colorful Bites</p>
<p>yaD sdrawkcaB</p>	<p>Seven C's Scavenger Hunt</p>	<p>Mission Money Mania</p>





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Director Guide

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Printed in China.



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OVERVIEW

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE!

Listen! Can you hear a howler monkey screeching and insects buzzing? *Look!* Do you see a sloth hanging from a tree and a jaguar crouching, ready to pounce? *Smell!* Is that the aroma of tropical flowers wafting through the air? *Touch!* Do you feel soft grass under your feet and gentle rain on your skin? *Taste!* Is that delicious milk from a coconut and exotic spices from the rainforest?

Join us in a world of wonder that will delight our senses while captivating our hearts and minds at *The Great Jungle Journey: An Epic Cruise from Genesis to Revelation*. We will cruise through jungle rivers, making stops at seven ports of call along the way—each starting with a C. These represent seven key biblical events—the 7 C's of History.

Day 1: Creation—Our first C takes us back to the beginning of time and the creation of the universe when it was all good. Did the universe start with a big bang, or did God create it?

Day 2: Corruption and Catastrophe—Next, Adam sinned, which affected his descendants, who were so wicked that God sent a global flood as judgment for their sin.

Day 3: Confusion—The fourth C checks out the events that began at the tower of Babel. Can this be where all the people groups originated from?

Day 4: Christ and the Cross—At these stops, we realize once again that man is sinful and needs a Savior. Hallelujah, God provides one in his Son!

Day 5: Consummation—The last C shows the thrilling conclusion to history when all goes back to very good again, and—best news ever—God wins against sin and Satan.

Excitement and adventure await from the first minute of each day when kids meet in travel groups. The groups gather at the **Jungle Jam Assembly**, a high-energy beginning that includes wacky intros, lively songs, a Mission Moment, and prayer.

Then they're off to rotate through five fun sites:

Rain or Shine Bible Time, where God's Word is taught in creative, hands-on ways.

Tree-mendous Science and Crafts, where kids make jazzy jungle crafts and explore God's amazing world with science experiments.

Canopy Café Snacks, where travelers go bananas, munching on tropical treats and eats.

Rainforest Recreation, where kids rumble in the jungle with some wet and wild games.

Travelers' Missions, Music, and Memory Verses, where kids sing songs, learn their memory verses with fun games, or go in-depth with the Mission Moment featuring Children's Hunger Fund.

Finally, everyone heads back to the **Jungle Jam Assembly** for the closing, where there's more singing, contest results, and the highly anticipated daily drama. This follows a jungle river cruise that plans to make stops at different ports of call but faces a catastrophe that affects the plan, resulting in lots of unexpected rainforest adventures.

Prepare to swing into the fun as we head out on our jungle river cruise. See you in the rainforest!

Our Goal

We are so thankful for how God has chosen to use the Answers VBS programs over the past years! But why did we decide to embark on such an undertaking in the first place, and why are we still at it by God's grace?

Our primary goal has always been to bring God glory by boldly and unashamedly proclaiming him to a strategic group—young people! From both a biblical and statistical point of view, young people are a big deal. They're not only awesome—we love 'em!—but they're also dearly cherished by our Lord and tend to be softhearted toward spiritual things. Researchers generally agree most people become Christians when they're children, so it's apparent this age group is a huge mission field!

Children are loved by their Creator, and Jesus said to let them come to him (Luke 18:16). We want children to come to Christ and not be hindered in any way from doing so. To that end, we combine a biblically rich VBS with off-the-chart, irresistible fun. In a day and age when content sometimes suffers, we don't want to sacrifice rich teaching. But it's also crucial that the most exciting book in the world not come across as boring or irrelevant. We want to reflect our creative, inspiring, joy-giving God who made laughter and fun.

So why do we do it? We want kids around the world to hear about and personally meet our awesome God and understand how they can receive eternal life through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. We believe VBS is a great way to introduce them to God, as it is one of the biggest outreaches of the year for most churches.

We pray you will find that every prayer prayed, every minute invested, every dollar spent, and every word spoken will bring God glory as you reach kids for Christ. Just remember—VBS is worth it. May God richly bless your VBS. We're praying for you!

Your Role

As the director of VBS, you are someone who possesses vision, organizational and people skills, and a heart for children. The following are your responsibilities.

- Oversee the entire VBS (read through the *Director Guide* and other manuals for further information)
- Work with the church staff on VBS-related issues such as goals, dates, and budget
- Recruit, organize, and oversee the entire VBS staff
- Run training workshops
- Coordinate the closing program to bring everyone back together after VBS is over
- Establish effective follow-up
- Pray over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS

Frequently Asked Questions

The content of *The Great Jungle Journey* may be new to you. For a list of helpful articles on the topics covered in this VBS program, please visit AnswersVBS.com/junglefaq.

Terms to Know

Throughout the VBS curriculum, various terms will be used. Here is a list of some of the most common terms you should know.

Travel Groups/Travelers: Groups of children (individual classes) named after jungle animals, such as Bengal Tigers, Butterflies, Toucans, or Howler Monkeys.

Group Guides: Group leaders who lead the travelers from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required of this position.

Rain or Shine Bible Time: Bible and apologetics lesson time in the jungle.

River Guides: Teachers of the Rain or Shine Bible Time.

Tree-mendous Science and Crafts: Rotation site where crafts are made and science experiments are explored.

Canopy Café Snacks: Indoor or outdoor location where snacks are served.

Rainforest Recreation: Indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred) for recreation time.

Travelers' Missions, Music, and Memory Verses: Rotation sites where kids can spend additional time learning songs, memory verses, and missions.

Memory Verse: Daily Bible verse to learn.

Animal Pals: Our friendly animal mascots that remind us of the main themes of each day.

Toddlers: 2–4-year-olds.

Pre-Primaries: 4–6-year-olds or children ages 4 through those who have completed kindergarten.

Primaries: 6–9-year-olds or children who have completed grades 1–3.

Juniors: 9–12-year-olds or children who have completed grades 4–6.

For multi-age K–6 travel groups, we recommend using the material for the Primaries.

Top 20 Tips for the VBS Director

Whether you're a first-time recruit or a seasoned director, here are some tips just for you.

1. Pray and study God's Word. "We will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4). You *will* be busy, so keep in mind that the busier you get, the more you need to pray and study! God will multiply your time if you give him your best.
2. Read through the various guides thoroughly and early. Become familiar with the Digital Resources, which contains clip art, logos, printable and customizable versions of the forms mentioned throughout this guide, and more. If you're a first-time director, ask previous directors and VBS veterans what's been done in the past. It helps to receive counsel! At the same time, don't be afraid to try something new.
3. Check out the web address listed on page 8 for great articles on the teaching at *The Great Jungle Journey*. This is a good resource for you and a good reference for volunteers or parents who have questions.
4. Many hands make light work. Be careful not to overextend yourself. Delegate areas of responsibility to people and allow them the joy of serving, even if it is not quite how you would do it.
5. When working with people, there most likely will be conflicts. Resolve conflict with prayer and gentle answers based on principles from God's Word. "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).
6. Have a backup plan for games in case it rains and you need to be inside all day.
7. Have fun. Directing your VBS should be a joy for you. At the same time, though, remember you are in a spiritual battle with an enemy who will try to throw darts your way. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
8. Label file folders or electronic file folders with different areas of VBS, and use these to file ideas and suggestions.
9. Help your church catch the significance of this event by sharing that VBS is a huge, God-given opportunity to reach many with the gospel of Christ.
10. Get enough sleep and exercise.
11. Make people feel loved, appreciated, and needed.
12. Communicate well. Make announcements, require attendance at the training workshops, send emails, and keep everyone informed.
13. Be enthusiastic! Your excitement is contagious and makes others want to be in on the fun.
14. When deciding on the ages to include in your VBS, keep in mind that this VBS is written to appeal to not only young children but also older elementary kids. It has real answers from God's Word for real issues all kids face.
15. Be the *director*. Don't commit to teaching or any other VBS leadership role during VBS week. Stay as free as possible to greet, encourage, and troubleshoot.
16. Carry a cell phone or walkie-talkie with you during VBS week so you can be reached throughout the building.
17. Prepare two containers for each group leader. See page 34 for more information.
18. Soon after VBS is over, survey the staff so you can make improvements for next year.
19. Keep a list of answered prayers and praises. Share your list with others.
20. After VBS is finished, continue to pray for God to grow the seeds he planted and to bring more fruit over the next months. "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Connect with us and other Answers VBS directors through the following platforms:

[Facebook.com/answersvbs](https://www.facebook.com/answersvbs)

[Facebook.com/groups/answersvbs](https://www.facebook.com/groups/answersvbs)

[YouTube.com/answersvbs](https://www.youtube.com/answersvbs)

[Pinterest.com/answersvbs](https://www.pinterest.com/answersvbs)

[Twitter.com/answersvbs](https://twitter.com/answersvbs)

Terrific Trivia Tidbits

Jungle. Rainforest. What's the difference? A jungle is land covered with dense foliage and typically refers to the ground or understory layer of a tropical rainforest. Rainforests can be temperate or tropical (tropical rainforests are featured in this VBS) and encompass a variety of different vegetation layers, from the understory to the canopy. This trivia includes facts from jungles as well as from tropical rainforests more generally.

Now—time for a question. Do you know what the largest jungle in the world is called? The Amazon jungle (more properly called the Amazon rainforest). It's almost as big as the whole US!

Use this and the following trivia tidbits (also available on the [Resource Download](#)) to start thinking about our fun theme—the tropical rainforests of the world and their jungles—as well as our spiritual theme—the 7 biblical C's of history. These fun facts can be shared ahead of time at staff meetings with adults and teens or during the week of VBS with the kids. Use them at arrival and dismissal times or during any downtime between rotations.

Part 1: General Information

- Do you ever wear a belt around your middle? God made the earth with a type of “belt” around its middle. It's called the equator. That's where tropical rainforests with jungles are found.
- Weather forecast today in the tropical rainforest? Warm and rainy. Tomorrow's forecast? Warm and rainy. The next day's? Warm and rainy. And on, and on, and on.
- Hungry? There's plenty of food to be found in jungles, such as bananas, pineapples, cinnamon, peppers, oranges, coffee beans, guava, cashews, and many other foods.
- God designed various leaves in the rainforest to help in different ways. There are leaves with drip tips that allow water to run off the tips. This keeps the leaves dry and free of mold. Other leaves act like mini “buckets” that gather water. Each is uniquely made by God.
- Guess what you call one banana? A finger. How about a whole bunch attached together? A hand.
- If you've ever imagined swinging on a vine through the jungle, just know there really are thick, rope-like vines in the jungle called lianas, and many animals do swing on them.
- Speaking of vines, strangler fig vines coil around a tree and eventually “strangle” the tree to death.
- Have you heard of cloud forests? They are cool rainforests higher up on mountains that are frequently covered by low-level clouds.
- The largest river in the world is the Amazon River. It can be brown, black, red, green, white, or blue, depending on the sediment content and depth.
- Ever heard of killer plants? Tropical pitcher plants found in Southeast Asia kill bugs, and sometimes larger pitcher plants catch lizards and rats!
- The word *rainforest* was invented around 1900 to describe a forest that grows in constantly wet conditions.
- Indigenous people sometimes use poison-tipped arrows to hunt. Where do they get the poison? From poison dart frogs!
- Do you like taking hot showers or cold showers? If you visit a jungle, it often feels like you're standing in a hot and steamy shower.
- Pretend you're standing in the rain. Because rainforests have really thick foliage, drops of rain can take 10 minutes to reach you on the forest floor!
- Do you like the smell of flowers? There's one you won't like for sure, and that's the Rafflesia that grows in the jungles of Southeast Asia. As the biggest flower in the world, it's three feet (90 cm) across and smells like rotting meat, thus its other name—the corpse flower.
- Feeling sick? Many of the medicines we use today originate from plants in the jungles and are used to treat conditions such as asthma, arthritis, malaria, heart disease, and even cancer.
- Glow-in-the-dark mushrooms? Yep, they're a thing in the rainforest! God gave some living things the ability to make their own light, which is called bioluminescence.
- There are areas of jungles that are so difficult to reach they remain largely untouched. Wonder what's in there?
- Organisms that live on other plants are called epiphytes, and they like to hitch a ride on hosting plants. Epiphytes don't need soil to grow but instead get their nutrients from the air, water, and debris—thus their nickname of air plants.
- Chocolate . . . growing on trees? Cacao seeds grow in the jungle, and that's where chocolate comes from.
- Hide and seek. Because there are so many tangled trees and vines in the jungle, animals have lots of places to hide from predators.
- Guess which continent doesn't have jungles. Did you guess Antarctica? Jungles can be found on every other continent.
- Check out these jungle plant names: Lobster Claws, Monkey Brush, and the Walking Palm.
- Only 6% of the world is covered by rainforests, but over half of all species live there.

Part 2: Animal Information

- Would you freak out or think it's cool to see an Amazon giant centipede that is a foot long? Bird-eating tarantulas the size of dinner plates? A rhinoceros beetle the size of a baseball? You can find them all in jungles.
- Ribbit! Most of the world's frogs live in jungles, including some crazy-looking ones like glass frogs, tomato frogs, the Surinam horned frog, and the hairy frog.
- Most chill animal? Maybe the sloth. It spends its days hanging upside down on branches, slowly eating leaves and sleeping. It moves so slowly it may grow algae on its fur, making it appear a fuzzy green color.
- Here's a clever invention. The orangutan of the Southeast Asian rainforests makes his own hat out of leaves! God gave him that ability to cool himself down from intense heat and to be protected from rainforest downpours.
- What's one of the loudest animals in the rainforest? The howler monkey. God gave it an enlarged hyoid bone in its throat which makes its calls especially loud. You can hear it echoing through the jungle three miles away.
- Stick out your tongue. Now try to touch your eyelid with it. Okapis have such long tongues they can actually lick their own eyelids.
- Guess what group of animals you'll find the most of in the rainforest. Did you say insects? It's estimated that 2.5 million insect species live in the Amazon jungle alone. Add in the other jungles of the world, and you've got yourself a lot of insects!
- Which jungle cat has the strongest bite? The jaguar. It can bite straight through the thick shell of a turtle.
- Some animals' feet never touch the forest floor! They live their whole lives up in the trees.
- Wanna meet a freaky big frog? Then check out the Goliath frog. It's the biggest frog in the world at over 12 inches (30 cm) in length and seven pounds (3 kg) in weight, making it bigger than some house cats. Any ideas why they nicknamed it the Goliath frog?
- How's this for creative? When it's curled up, the bird-dropping crab spider looks like . . . bird droppings! It even smells like them.
- If you want to see the world's smallest bear in the wild, head to the jungles of Southeast Asia where the sun bear lives. It's about half the size of the American black bear.
- At the Black Ivory Coffee business in Thailand, about 20 elephants that live in the jungle are fed coffee beans. When they go to the bathroom a day or so later, their waste is harvested and made into one of the most expensive coffees in the world—Black Ivory Coffee.
- Ants that explode? Yep! If they feel threatened, they squeeze their muscles really hard. That makes them explode! They leave a harmful, sticky goo behind.
- God designed the basilisk lizard with feet that enable it to “walk” on water. Because of that, it is sometimes called the Jesus lizard.
- Have you ever tried to bite off more than you can chew? Leaf-cutter ants bite off so many leaves it's incredible. They actually carry the leaves around—almost 50 times their weight! That would be like a person carrying the weight of about three large men in his teeth!
- Zap! Watch out for electric eels if you end up in a South American jungle river. They can grow to be eight feet (2.4 m) long and give a jolt that is strong enough to knock a horse off its feet. They aren't real “eels” but instead are knifefish.
- Do you like bright-colored birds? Some of the most beautiful, colorful birds in the world live in jungles, such as the toco toucan, scarlet macaw, Amazon kingfisher, and the ruby-throated hummingbird.
- Who's the king of the jungle? It's often thought to be lions, but lions typically don't live in jungles. Many tigers do though.
- Did you suck your thumb when you were a baby? Baby elephants suck their trunks.
- What's the largest rodent in the world? A mouse? A rat? Nope, it's a capybara. They can weigh up to 150 pounds (68 kg) and stand at two feet (60 cm) tall. Now that's one big rodent!
- What is the world's strongest bird of prey? The forest-dwelling harpy eagle. Even though they are birds, they eat mammals as big as sloths and monkeys. One look at their faces and you might be intimidated too!
- Is it true that piranhas eat humans? They usually eat animals and plants. While they can be aggressive toward people, it would be highly unlikely they would attack a full-grown adult. Keep your hands inside the boat though!

Ferociously Fun Jokes

Animal Pal Jokes and Riddles

Day 1 Animal Pal Jokes—Parrot

- Why did the parrot's mom go to the elementary school?
For a parrot-teacher conference.
- What did the parrot say to the waitress after he ordered his food? *"Just put it on my bill."*
- What did the parrot say when the monkey made fun of him? *"Toucan play that game."*
- What did the teacher say to the parrot who wasn't prepared for her speech? *"Just wing it!"*
- What's a parrot's favorite material? *Polly-ester.*

Day 2 Animal Pal Jokes—Poison Dart Frog

- What's a poison dart frog's favorite drink? *Croak-a-cola.*
- What's a poison dart frog's favorite place to work? *IHOP.*
- Why was the poison dart frog crying? *Because he was so unhappy.*
- What do you get when you cross a frog and a rabbit? *A bunny ribbit.*

Day 3 Animal Pal Jokes—Gorilla

- Why are gorillas the best fighters? *Because they know King Kong Fu.*
- What's a gorilla's favorite cookie? *Chocolatechimp.*
- What's a gorilla's favorite fruit? *Ape-ricots.*
- Why does the gorilla like to shop at Amazon? *Because he's a Prime-ate.*
- How does a gorilla get down a flight of steps? *He slides down the banana-ster.*

Day 4 Animal Pal Jokes—Pink River Dolphin

- What's a pink river dolphin's favorite country to visit? *Fin-land.*
- What do pink river dolphins take when they get a cold? *Vitamin Sea.*
- What did the pink river dolphin tell his mom when he broke her favorite vase? *"I didn't do it on porpoise!"*
- What did the dolphin's mom say after he got a haircut? *"You look fin-tastic!"*

Day 5 Animal Pal Jokes—Butterfly

- How did the caterpillar know he was in love? *He had butterflies in his stomach.*

- What's a butterfly's favorite type of government?
A monarchy.
- What do you call a friendly caterpillar? *A social butterfly.*
- Why wasn't the butterfly invited to the dance? *Because it was a moth ball.*

Miscellaneous Jokes and Riddles

- What's a rainforest dweller's favorite dessert? *A pie-thon.*
- How do you get to know a modern spider? *Check out his web-site.*
- What's a rainforest dweller's favorite Christmas song? *Jungle Bell Rock.*
- What's an anaconda's favorite subject in school? *Hissss-tory.*
- What do you call a sick alligator? *An ill-igator.*
- Why do hummingbirds hum? *Because they don't know the words.*
- Where do tigers go to work out? *The jungle gym.*
- Where do monkeys go to get flowers? *The rain-florist.*
- What plant can you hold in your hand? *A palm tree.*

Knock Knock Jokes

- Knock knock. *Who's there?*
Iguana. *Iguana who?*
Iguana go to VBS. Want to come?
- Knock knock. *Who's there?*
Leaf. *Leaf who?*
Leaf me alone, please.
- Knock knock. *Who's there?*
Gorilla. *Gorilla who?*
Gorilla me a steak, please!
- Knock knock. *Who's there?*
Water. *Water who?*
Water you waiting for? Come to VBS!

Tongue Twisters

- A pack of pretty parrots pitter-patter.
- Monkeys make mud pies many Monday mornings.
- Crowds of crawly critters creep along the crooked creeks.
- A million messy monkeys love to mambo.
- Skunks shun summer sunshine.

Jungle A to Z

A

acacia ant, Amazon, anaconda, Asian arowana fish, armadillo, army ant, assassin bug, Atlas moth

B

basilisk lizard, beetle, bioluminescent mushrooms, bird-eating spider, black agouti, blue morpho butterfly, Borneo, Bornean elephant, bromeliad

C

cacao bean, caiman, cannonball tree, canopy, capybara, cashew, chicle tree, chimpanzee, clearwater, cloud forest, coconut, Congo, corpse lily, crab spider

D

dogfish, dolphin (pink), downriver, dragonfly

E

electric eel, elephant beetle, emerald boa, emergent layer, epiphyte, equator, exploding ant

F

fer-de-lance snake, fern, fig tree, forest floor, fruit-eating bat

G

giant anteater, giant otter, giant stink bug, gibbon, golden lion tamarin, goliath beetle, gorilla

H

harpy eagle, Hercules beetle, hoatzin, hornbill, howler monkey, hummingbird

I

ibis, insect, iguana

J

jaguar, Jatoba tree, jumping spider, jungle

K

Kapok tree, keel-billed toucan, kingfisher, kola nut

L

lantern bug, leafcutter ant, leaves, leech socks, lemon, lemur, leopard, liana vine, lime

M

macaw, manatee, mango, matamata, moss, mother-of-pearl butterfly

N

nettles, night monkey, ninja slug

O

ocelot, oil palm, okapi, orangutan, orchid

P

palm grass, pangolin, papaya, parrot, passion flower, peccary, philodendron, pink river dolphin, pitcher plant, piranha, poison dart frog, prayer plant, pygmy marmoset

Q

Queen Alexandra's bird-wing butterfly, queen's wreath, quetzal, quinine bark

R

rain, rainforest, rain poncho, red-eyed tree frog, rosy periwinkle, river cruise, rubber tree

S

scarlet macaw, silverback gorilla, skiff, sloth, spiny katydid, stingray, strangler fig tree, Sumatran tiger, sun bear, sunlight, Suriname toad

T

tamandua, tapir, tent-making bat, tomatoes, tonka bean, tropical

U

ubos fruit tree, umbrella bird, undergrowth, understory layer

V

vampire bat, vanilla bean, violin beetle

W

walking palm, walking stick, waterfalls, Wellington boots, whip scorpion, whitewater, window-pane butterfly, wooly mouse opossum

XYZ

Xylopia brasiliensis tree, yam, yapock, zebra plant, zorro

Top 20 Tips When Working with Children

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:13–14

1. Show love. All children, regardless of age or appearance, need to be loved. Greet them warmly each day, and always be ready with smiles, giggles, encouraging words, and appropriate hugs. (Make sure all staff are aware of your church's appropriate touching policies.)
2. Learn names. It makes children feel important and loved to be called by their name. Make sure visible name tags are always on each child.
3. Keep it moving. Children have short attention spans.
4. Use active learning. The more children can actively be involved in the learning process, the more they will retain.
5. Be all there! Try to leave behind whatever is currently going on in your life and focus your attention on the children under your care during VBS. Listen to them and care for them.
6. Eliminate downtime. Find activities to do when you have a few free minutes so all time is being used in a fun and productive way. Practice memory verses, share Terrific Trivia Tidbits and jokes (Ferociously Fun Jokes), play impromptu review games, or ask fun conversation starters (page 75).
7. Think safety. Read the Child Safety Precautions on page 52. Ensure there are always at least two unrelated adults with the children at all times.
8. Be thematic. Get the kids enthused and excited about participating in the daily contests. Children love costumes, fun cheers, songs, and anything that goes with the theme, so dress to reflect a jungle cruise.
9. Walk worthy. Be an example in both word and deed. Children need to see authentic Christianity, so make sure you are walking the walk and not just talking the talk.
10. Notice the good. Children want attention and will sometimes act up in an effort to receive attention, even if it is negative attention. Be proactive by noticing and praising the things they do right. Be an encourager.
11. Be aware of age-level characteristics. With younger children, activities need to be hands-on, concrete, short, and simple. Older children love to talk and are processing and questioning information. Be ready to give an answer for the hope that is within you.
12. Challenge them. Children generally rise to the level expected of them, so challenge them to learn their memory verses and song lyrics. At the same time, encourage in them a true love for the Lord and his Word.
13. Pray. Before, during, and after VBS, be a faithful prayer warrior for the children in your care.
14. Be organized. Read through all training information, ask questions, and faithfully prepare any materials for which you are responsible.
15. Be a team player. Children do not need to hear negative words from their leaders. If you are frustrated or upset, take it to the Lord, but do not complain or get angry in front of the children.
16. Remember to take bathroom breaks. The younger the children, the more important this is!
17. Maintain order. Children like order! Think through potential trouble spots in your day and decide on a firm, loving discipline strategy. Ask for help from experienced individuals.
18. Build team spirit. Work as a team rather than allowing cliques to develop. Everyone should be an important member of the team.
19. Use guided conversation. Be alert and ready to turn conversations to spiritual matters. Build upon what the children are learning throughout the VBS day.
20. Be prepared to lead a child to Christ. Attend the Gospel Presentation Workshop to be equipped should God give you the awesome opportunity to talk to a child about Christ.

Age-Level Characteristics

Kids are awesome! Each one is unique and is a special creation from the hand of our amazing Creator. With all their uniqueness, however, they also share some common characteristics. That doesn't mean every child always exhibits the following characteristics at the corresponding age, but these guidelines can be a benchmark to use when looking at characteristics of children as a whole. It can be

helpful to see how God has wired children as they develop, enabling us to be more effective in teaching and interacting with them.

First, you'll see characteristics of children in general and then characteristics broken down by the four age groups we use with Answers VBS.

COMMON CHARACTERISTICS

- Children are born sinners.
- God has given each a conscience, and they (generally) want good to win over evil.
- God has shown himself to all children through his creation, making it obvious to all that there is a Creator.
- Children enjoy active learning—moving around, seeing things, touching things, smelling and hearing things, and being involved.
- Children need to be loved, encouraged, and praised.
- Children are rapidly growing and changing.
- Children trust the adults who are responsible for them.
- Children can get discouraged by criticism and failure.
- Children are eager to learn and are curious about the world and about God.

TODDLERS (2–4 YEARS OLD)

Physical Characteristics

Toddlers are active! They're on the move, running, climbing, and exploring. Some are beginning to perform simple tasks like using scissors. They can easily get hurt as they are rapidly developing physical skills but don't have wisdom to know when to stop running, climbing, etc.

Takeaways for Us

- Keep toddlers moving. Engage them actively as much as possible. Have them do motions to songs and actions to Bible accounts.
- Supervise them carefully.
- Provide chunky, nontoxic supplies.
- Intersperse periods of sitting with something active.

Emotional/Social Characteristics

Toddlers want to do things by themselves, such as picking out their clothes and dressing themselves. They like imaginative, dramatic play. They're testing their powers and saying "no" a lot. They often want to please adults and try to mimic their behaviors. They're affectionate toward others. Toddlers are fearful of things that are loud and out of the ordinary.

Takeaways for Us

- Let toddlers be helpers. Give them simple one-step jobs to do and have them help pick up things and straighten the room at the end of the lesson. Let them know they've done a good job.

- Be consistently present all week; establish routines and stick with them.
- Be consistent in discipline. Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no."
- Give them opportunities to dress up and play imaginatively.
- Don't dress in elaborate costumes that may seem unfamiliar and scary.
- Be careful to walk worthy—act and speak in godly ways. Little eyes are watching and will want to imitate you!

Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

Toddlers are curious and want to touch, smell, feel, see, and experience their world. They have short attention spans and learn and communicate in short sentences. They understand short and simple directions. They believe what you say. Their attitude toward God and others is in the process of being formed during these years.

Takeaways for Us

- Involve toddlers' senses in learning! The more they can touch, smell, see, taste, and feel, the better!
- Give clear, simple directions.
- Keep activities and lessons short. Toddlers' attention spans are only a few minutes long before they need to switch to something new, so keep it moving!
- Be careful to speak accurately and truthfully.
- Show care and respect for your Bible and help them see your love for it and for the Lord.

PRE-PRIMARIES (4–6 YEARS OLD)

Physical Characteristics

Pre-Primaries are active and more confident in physical activities like jumping, hopping on one foot, and walking backward. They love to be moving. They're improving in hand-eye coordination.

Takeaways for Us

- Pre-Primaries like to play hard, so keep them moving with short, simple games and activities. They may need to sit and rest for a brief time after active play.

Emotional/Social Characteristics

Pre-Primaries are less fearful than toddlers but may still be afraid of common things like dogs or the dark. They can have emotional extremes and are testing others to see who can be controlled. They want to please adults and want praise. They will often mimic adults' behaviors. They like imaginative play. Pre-Primaries can handle small tasks and levels of responsibility.

Takeaways for Us

- Let them be helpers. Give them simple jobs to do, and have them help pick up things and straighten the room at the end of the lesson. Let them know they've done a good job.
- Give them opportunities to dress up and play imaginatively.
- Be consistent in discipline. Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no."
- Be careful to walk worthy—act and speak in godly ways. Little eyes are watching and will want to imitate you!

Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

Pre-Primaries talk a lot and ask a lot of questions, including questions about God. They understand that sin is disobeying God. They need a lot of guidance in tasks but can also follow a simple series of directions. They have an attention span of approximately five minutes. They enjoy doing new things and hearing stories and songs. They're not always able to tell the difference between reality and fantasy. They're developing attitudes toward right and wrong and can do basic memory work.

Takeaways for Us

- In downtime, give them time to ask questions and be ready to patiently answer! During teaching time, however, be careful you don't get so wrapped up in letting them talk that the lesson doesn't happen!
- Vary activities often—every 5–10 minutes.
- When engaged in pretend activities, name them as such (e.g., "Let's pretend to be explorers!"). At the same time, point out often that God's Word is not pretend but true!
- Repetition in songs and stories works great and is enjoyed by Pre-Primaries.
- Sing the memory verse songs with them. They will be able to learn at least parts of the verses by the end of the week.
- Use visuals.
- Teach them about sin and asking God for forgiveness.
- Show interest in each child, helping them sense your care and interest in them.
- Be careful to speak accurately and truthfully.
- Show care and respect for your Bible and help them see your love for it and for the Lord.

PRIMARIES (6–9 YEARS OLD)

Physical Characteristics

Primaries love games and competitions, but it can be hard for them to lose. They are continuing to grow and improve in hand-eye coordination and fine and gross motor skills. They need to have opportunities for movement.

Takeaways for Us

- Use games to teach! Primaries love any kind of games, whether active or learning-type games.
- Help them learn to take turns and to be good winners and good losers! Both winning and losing well are important in God's sight.
- Use boy versus girl competitions to get them revved up! As long as you keep it light and fun, they will enjoy these times.

Emotional/Social Characteristics

Primaries are becoming more independent and confident in their ability to do things. Girls play most often with girls and boys with boys, but there is some mixing of girl and boy friends. They like to have a best friend and enjoy pretend play. Primaries enjoy jokes and are gaining a sense of humor. They care about being accepted by the team and want adult and teacher approval.

Takeaways for Us

- Give Primaries plenty of opportunities to work in teams or with partners.
- Use humor with Primaries. The sillier, the better!
- Be careful to walk worthy—act and speak in godly ways.

Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

Primaries like to talk and ask questions. They understand simple concepts and sentences and are concrete rather than abstract or symbolic thinkers. They're learning to read. They need active learning. Their attention span is growing. They understand the consequences of their actions. They can tell the difference between reality and fantasy. They often have a strict sense of right and wrong.

Takeaways for Us

- Be concrete in what you say. Don't use abstract or symbolic language. For example, regarding salvation, don't ask if they have Jesus in their hearts. They will take that literally. Becoming a child of God, or being in God's family, is a more concrete way to express the same concept, as they will understand what it means to be in a family.

- Although their attention spans are growing, it's still good to vary activities and involve Primaries with movement as much as possible.
- Some children read better than others. Be careful about asking children to read out loud. Try asking for volunteers.
- Small print can be a challenge, so use larger print when possible.
- Encourage memorization.
- Use visuals.
- Show interest in each child, helping them sense your care and interest in them.
- Be careful to speak accurately and truthfully. Explain Bible words and concepts even if you think they are widely understood.
- Remember that you are a role model.
- Show care and respect for your Bible and help them see your love for it and for the Lord.

JUNIORS (9–12 YEARS OLD)

Physical Characteristics

Juniors can vary widely as they grow, with some having a growth spurt that launches them into puberty. (This can make them get tired easily.) Height, weight, and physical maturity can be all across the board. Their stamina, strength, and coordination are improving, and some are becoming known for their athletic abilities. Juniors enjoy going places and doing interesting things.

Takeaways for Us

- Don't comment on physical appearance, such as how tall someone is. Juniors can feel sensitive and awkward about their bodies.
- Make sure to help each child realize how special and uniquely created by God he or she is. Some have gifts and talents physically, some musically, some academically, etc. They need to be assured that they are God's masterpiece, created exactly as they are for a special purpose.
- Some love being active, and some don't, but it's good to keep them involved and moving.

sarcasm. As they head into puberty, they may experience mood swings.

Takeaways for Us

- Make sure the teens and young adults in their VBS world are good role models.
- Don't tear down Juniors or resort to sarcasm. Be an encourager, listen well, and be patient with them.
- Incorporate discussion into the lesson and do things that allow teams or pairings that don't rely solely on the children choosing partners. This helps avoid children repeatedly getting chosen last by peers.
- Be careful to walk worthy—act and speak in godly ways.

Emotional/Social Characteristics

Juniors can't wait to grow up. They look up to teenagers and young adults. They like challenges and may develop interests and hobbies, although they're self-conscious about their abilities and failures. They're becoming more independent and can handle responsibilities. They enjoy close friendships and small group discussion with peers. They're greatly influenced by their friends and want to be accepted. They look to friends for information and advice on issues. They like humor and jokes and most understand

Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

Juniors are beginning to think abstractly and are asking many questions for which they're looking for good answers. They have a much longer attention span than younger children. Their reading and memorization skills are improving. They're developing their views on current issues and often want to associate themselves with their parents' belief system. They spot inconsistencies in what people do versus what they say. Juniors enjoy serving and caring for others.

Takeaways for Us

- Ask thought-provoking spiritual questions. They are thinking and like to talk. Be there for them as a safe person to bounce thoughts and ideas off of.
- Listen well and pray with them.
- Some children read better than others. Be careful about asking children to read out loud unless they volunteer or you know they can read well.
- Allow them to act out lessons. Most Juniors enjoy this active involvement.

- Give them opportunities to be involved in missions or service projects.
- Challenge them to ask God to help them grow in their love for him and his Word. Help them set up Bible-reading plans and encourage them to memorize passages of Scripture.
- Make sure to walk the walk and not just talk the talk. They can spot inconsistencies, so it's important to walk worthy.
- Show interest in each child, helping them sense your care and interest in them.
- Be careful to speak accurately and truthfully.
- Show care and respect for your Bible and help them see your love for it and for the Lord.

Tips for Managing a Group of Kids

Kids are fun, and kids have energy! Whether you are a group guide, a classroom teacher, or an assistant, be prepared to confidently lead them using some strategies that follow.

Attention Getters

Call and Response—The teacher teaches the kids that when she says something, they reply back with something else. Practice the following ideas so they know your expectations for responding to them.

- » **Teacher:** Chimpanzees!
Kids: Everybody freeze!
- » **Teacher:** 1, 2, 3, 4
Kids: Elephants, tigers, monkeys galore!
- » **Teacher:** Pitter-patter, pitter-patter
Kids: Raindrop, raindrop
- » **Teacher:** Crisscross (they cross their legs)
Kids: Watch for crocs!
- » **Teacher:** Rain
Kids: Forest
Teacher: Rain
Kids: Forest
Teacher: Shh!

Rainstorm—Make the sound of a rainstorm that starts softly with a light rain and gets louder. Start by having everyone rub their hands together, then snap their fingers to get a little louder, then clap their hands (not in rhythmic clapping), then slap their hands on their legs, then stomp their feet. Go in reverse to get back to a light rain.

Countdown—Hold up five fingers and start to count down from five to one. By the count of one, they need to be completely quiet.

Rhythm Claps—The teacher claps a little rhythm and the kids try to clap the exact rhythm back. Vary the clapping patterns.

Soft Talk—Start talking about something important very softly, or in a whisper. Kids will often get quiet to hear what you are saying. Or share a command in a soft voice, such as, “Anyone who hears me, clap once.” Continue to share other commands.

Flash the Lights—This is a good signal to listen up.

Lining Up and Walking Through the Building

If You—Say different categories for lining up in fun ways, such as the following:

- » “If you are wearing red, line up. Now, if you’re wearing blue, line up.”
- » “If your birthday is during the summer, line up. Now, if your birthday is during the school year, line up.”
- » “If you have a dog, line up. Now, if you have a cat, line up. Now, if you have no pets, line up.”

- » “If your first name starts with A–L, line up. Now, if your first name starts with M–Z, line up.”
- » “If you are quiet, line up.”

Let’s Be—When you are leaving a room, encourage good behavior in the hallway by making a game out of it. This works well with younger kids.

- » “Let’s be mice and walk as quietly as we can.”
- » “Let’s be robots. No talking—just stiff movements.”

Proactive Tips

Be Prepared—One of the best ways to ward off discipline problems is to be prepared. If you have things well-organized and have thought through your day so there isn’t downtime, it really helps. Keep things moving! This takes more time on your part but is very worth it.

Active Participation—Keeping kids actively engaged in the lesson is perhaps the best thing you can do to keep the class from getting rowdy. The lessons are written to be creative, fun, and full of active participation. Play the games, act out the Bible accounts, and do the other ideas listed. Occupy kids’ minds and attention with good stuff!

Helpers—Involve the kids. Let them be helpers. Some kids just want to feel wanted, so giving them a responsibility is a way to show you trust them. Try putting them in charge of a simple task like filling out the attendance roster as kids come in to VBS, collecting name tags, carrying crafts, helping others learn memory verses, passing out papers, or holding a poster for the teacher. Sometimes a simple task can keep them busy and make them feel important!

Pray—Some kids may never have had anyone pray for them. Pray not only about behavior situations but also about their eternal souls.

Notice the Good—Sometimes a poor behavior is an attention-seeking device, so be proactive and give attention to that child so she doesn’t feel the need to act out negatively. Negative behaviors can be a cry for love and attention.

Use Humor—Kids of all ages love to laugh! Have fun together. If you see a situation is getting tense or a child is getting upset for some reason, try thinking of a way to lighten the mood with humor.

Distraction—When young kids are dropped off or start to cry, distracting them is a good technique to try. Ask them to tell you about something on their clothes (“Oh, what’s that on your T-shirt?”), get them talking about some of their favorites, or show them an intriguing toy or puppet.

Keep Them Busy—If there is any downtime, fill it with something productive! This could occur while waiting for the next rotation or the assembly to begin, if craft time ends a few minutes early, etc. Use the time to practice

team cheers, ask questions, or go over memory verses in fun ways (make up motions, make them into a rap, etc.). You may also want to play a quick game, like one of the following.

- » **Stone Face**—Have a competition to see which child can hold a frown for the longest without cracking a smile.
- » **I Spy**—Look for jungle things to spy out.
- » **Simon Says**—Simon can say Bible-themed things, like read your Bible (hands in front of you making a book), pray (praying hands), tell others (cup hands around mouth), go to church (make a church with a steeple out of your interlocked hands), etc.
- » **Quiet Mouse**—Have a competition to see who is the quietest in line.
- » **Follow the Leader**—Play the normal version or a jungle river cruise version. A jungle version uses rainforest animals and activities, like the following:
 - Fly like a scarlet macaw (bird).
 - Crouch like a jaguar.
 - Crawl like a Goliath birdeater spider.
 - Swim like a piranha fish.
 - Run like a basilisk lizard (running upright).
 - Slither like an anaconda, the world's largest snake.
 - Flutter like a blue morpho butterfly.
 - Jump like a red-eyed tree frog.
 - Trek through the jungle in your Wellington boots.
 - Kayak on the Amazon River.
 - Climb a tree to see a sloth.

Calming Rowdiness

Don't Yell—Kids may respond at first if someone yells, but they eventually dismiss it. Try some of these other ideas instead.

Separate Kids—Separate kids who misbehave around each other, but also encourage problem-solving when possible. "What are some things we could do to help you and ___ get along?"

Give Choices—Avoid power struggles by giving choices. If a child is resistant to doing something you've asked of her, try your command another way. "You can either sit with the rest of the group and listen to the teacher or sit with ___ (leader's name) at the back of the room."

Praise in Public, Correct in Private—If someone does need correction, be careful not to embarrass him in front of his peers. If you need to talk to a child about a misbehavior, pull him aside at a time when the rest of the group is distracted. Kids will be less defensive if they don't feel they have to "save face" in front of their peers, and if they feel you really care and aren't just coming down on them.

Know Church Policies—Know your church's policy for severe behavior issues. Do you take the child to your VBS director? Do you alert the child's parents? Do you involve other staff members? Be prepared.

What's in the Resource Download?

All resources listed on this page are included in the Resource Download link: AnswersVBS.com/jungleresources. They are also included in the Digital Pro Library, which is available to purchase at myAnswers.com. You may upload the contents of the Resource Download to a file-sharing site for your organization only. You may also email the resources to your team as necessary. Or each leader can access the above link to download the resources necessary for their rotation.



Assembly Resources

This folder contains daily scripts from the *Assembly Guide*. Images and videos for the **Creature Features** are found in the Creature Feature folder. For Children's Hunger Fund materials, see **Mission Moment_Childrens Hunger Fund** folder. For materials referenced in the drama, see the **Assembly_Drama** folder.

Assembly_Drama

This is the folder that will be used by your drama director. It features the sound effects, scripts, and prop lists needed to perform the drama. It also includes **a shorter script option**.

Bible Lessons

These folders are used by your Bible lesson teachers.

The simple songs referenced in the teacher guides for younger children have their own folder. They can be uploaded onto an MP3 player (on a phone, tablet, or other device) to be played in the classroom. These songs are also available to purchase on a CD (12-1-141) or as a download through our online store.

The patterns and coloring sheets referenced throughout the teacher guides are found in their respective age folders, along with a rich text (RTF) document of each teacher guide.

Presentation images of the memory verses, animal pals, and illustration posters are found in the **Presentation Images** folders.

Clip Art

A variety of clip art pertaining to the theme is found in this folder in both color and black-and-white versions.

The clip art is provided in three formats. Each format has a specific type of use. **PDF** files are vector files, which have

transparent backgrounds and are scalable for shirt printing or to make large signs or banners. **PNG** files are a general image format that contain transparent backgrounds. They can be used for any print or web use but cannot be scaled up without resolution issues. **SVG** files are the simple vector formats required for Cricut machines.

Coloring Pages

Craft and Science Patterns

Your science and crafts leaders will use this folder. PDFs of the patterns referenced throughout the science and crafts book are included in this folder.

Director Folders

These folders are for the VBS director and feature the forms listed throughout the *Director Guide*.

The **Forest FunDay** folder has what you need to host the carnival mentioned on page 67.

The **Helps and Forms** folder features editable forms mentioned throughout this guide.

Registration forms are also available. You may also want to register children online through the myAnswers.com portal.

Logos

We have provided a variety of logo options for you to use in promoting your *Great Jungle Journey* VBS program. You have permission to use these logos in any way that pertains to your VBS. You will also find images to use on various social media platforms in order to advertise your VBS.

Logos are provided in three formats. Each format has a specific type of use. **PDF** files are vector files, which have transparent backgrounds and are scalable for shirt printing or to make large signs or banners. **PNG** files are a general image format that contain transparent backgrounds. They can be used for any print or web use but cannot be scaled up without resolution issues. **SVG** files are the simple vector formats required for Cricut machines.

Mission Moment

This folder features the mission moment with Children's Hunger Fund. Determine when you would like to offer the Mission Moment—either during the opening assembly or during one of your rotations. Check the *Assembly Guide* and the *Travelers' Missions, Music @ Memory Verses Guide* (there

is a mission rotation featured here) for more information. This folder features presentation images, printable activities, as well as a reply form for whatever money is collected.

Presentation Images

These folders feature slides of the animal pals, Bible lesson illustrations, blank backgrounds, memory verses (in KJV and ESV), course overviews, and trivia (including daily jokes). We have also included PDFs in case you would like to print some of the files.

The **All** folder contains a PowerPoint file that contains all the images. Use this file to manipulate the images for your specific use by moving them around, deleting what you don't need, and adding in any videos. We aren't able to include videos in the file because it becomes too large.

Short Animations

Animations used in our videos can be found here for inclusion in your media.

Snack Patterns

Your snack director will need to have access to the PDF in this folder. You may want to print this file and give it to your snack leader for use as necessary.

Supply Lists

The supply lists for each leader guide are included in this folder, as well as in the Procedure section of this guide. They are included as RTF documents so you can modify them according to which activities you choose for your VBS.

Music Download Contents

All music resources (hand-motion videos, song lyric videos, lyrics, and presentation images) for both contemporary and traditional songs are found on the Music Leader Download link that comes with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit. Additional Music Downloads can also be purchased. These resources are also available with the purchase of Digital Pro at myAnswers.com.

PRIORITIES

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. Psalm 1:1-3

To ensure that your VBS doesn't take a detour down the wrong path, work on deepening your relationship with the Lord before, during, and after VBS. As director, your commitment to continual growth in your personal relationship with the Lord is vital. This comes as you depend upon the Lord and eagerly follow after him. Daily prayer and Bible study provide fuel for your growth. The Lord tells us that "whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Encourage your staff to regularly spend time fellowshiping with the Lord through prayer and reading his Word.

Take seriously the responsibility of finding a prayer coordinator to head up a VBS prayer ministry. Copy the following page for your prayer coordinator and encourage him to put together a combination of ideas that suits your situation.

Devotions for each VBS day have also been provided. You may want to read through these together or encourage your staff to read them on their own. Copies of the **devotions** can also be found on the Digital Resources, in the *Helper Handbook* (12-0-007), and in the teacher guides for each age group.



Praying for Your VBS

Praying that the Lord will use this VBS program for his purposes is vital. Apart from him, we can do nothing. As you launch your prayer ministry, choose from the following ideas.

Top 10 Tips for a VBS Prayer Ministry

“When God plans a great work, he first sets his people to prayer.”—Charles Spurgeon

1. Find prayer warriors. Enlist people who are willing to pray consistently for VBS. Send each of them a list of VBS prayer requests for which they can regularly be praying. See the [Prayer Calendar Sample](#) for ideas.
2. Set up an email prayer loop. Use your church’s email prayer loop—or create your own—to pass along VBS prayer requests.
3. Gather your VBS crew to pray. Pray at meetings and encourage them to pray on their own. Write all VBS crew names on slips of paper and have each draw a name of a fellow crew member to pray for and with.
4. Hold a weekly prayer meeting devoted to VBS. Pray over that week’s praises and prayer requests.
5. Encourage your group guides to pray through the names on their class lists before, during, and after VBS.
6. Hold a dedication service. Encourage the pastoral staff to include a time of prayer during the church service the Sunday before VBS.
7. Print maps and prayer request sheets and encourage your church family to walk the premises and pray over every area of the building and grounds.
8. Pass out “Praying for You” postcards (12-0-028) to willing and trustworthy church members with instructions to write a quick note to a child, letting him know someone is praying for him. Collect the postcards the week before VBS begins and have church staff address and mail them.
9. People who may not be able to make it to VBS can help by praying during the VBS hours from work, home, or wherever they are.
10. When VBS is over, continue to encourage your church family to pray for the children who came to VBS. Ask God to continue to work in their hearts and minds.



Staff Devotions

Devotion 1: God Is the Good Creator

The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. Psalm 145:9

For a few moments, imagine yourself strolling through a section of the garden of Eden. This beautiful abundance of flora and fauna was just declared by the Creator to be “very good.” The creation was a manifestation of the goodness of the Creator. In your mind’s eye, how does this original paradise reflect the goodness of God?

Do the flowers fill the air with glorious fragrances? Do the serpents hanging from the trees fill you with delight at their bright colors and silky smooth skin? Do you gently stroke the thick fur of the large bear to your right? Do you gasp in awe at the towering sauropod as he lumbers past?

Contrast this with the view that Carl Sagan held about God and his creation:

“If God is omnipotent and omniscient, why didn’t he start the universe out in the first place so it would come out the way he wants? Why is he constantly repairing and complaining? No, there’s one thing the Bible makes clear: The biblical God is a sloppy manufacturer. He’s not good at design, he’s not good at execution. He’d be out of business if there was any competition” (Carl Sagan, *Contact* [New York: Pocket Books, Simon & Schuster, 1985]).

In Sagan’s Eden, the flowers God created prick you with thorns when you bend over to inhale their fragrance. The serpent slithering past your feet inspires a fearful shriek. The lion creeping up behind the lamb suddenly takes a bite out of it. And the dinosaurs are nowhere to be seen because they died out millions of years ago.

What important factor did Carl Sagan fail to take into account? *He believed that the world we live in today is the world God originally created. He didn’t understand that we now live in a fallen world—a world that has been corrupted with sin. His view has been colored by the belief that the world is millions of years old and that the fossil record—filled with evidence of death, disease, suffering, and thorns—is a record of the way things have been for the past several million years.*

Carl Sagan isn’t alone in viewing the Creator this way. Media mogul Ted Turner and even Charles Darwin himself

are just a few of the many who can’t comprehend the goodness of God because of what they see today.

Although all of creation shouts, “There is a God!” (Romans 1:20), it has been marred with our sin.

Read Psalm 33:5. In what ways do you see the love of God still reflected in his creation?

In what ways do you see the effects of our sin?

Think about how you represent the all-good Creator to those in your care. For example, are the “design features” you share with your children reflective of a good God or a fallen creation?

As you present today’s C, do so in a way that emphasizes the goodness of God. His original creation was complete and “very good.” It was full of life, peace, and joy. He provided light for us to see by (day 1), air for us to breathe (day 2), vegetation for us to eat (day 3), majestic arrays of stars to study before bed (day 4), abundant fauna for us to enjoy (days 5–6), and a creation for us to care for. He created for his glory.

Read Psalm 107:1, 15, and 119:68, as well as this Puritan prayer about the infinite goodness of the Creator.

King of glory, divine majesty,

Every perfection adorns thy nature and sustains thy throne;

The heavens and earth are thine,

The world is thine and its fullness.

Thy power created the universe from nothing;

Thy wisdom has managed all its multiple concerns, Presiding over nations, families, individuals.

Thy goodness is boundless;

All creatures wait on thee;

Are supplied by thee;

Are satisfied in thee.

How precious are the thoughts of thy mercy and grace!

How excellent thy lovingkindness that draws men to thee!

—Arthur Bennett, *The Valley of Vision*
(Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2005), 216.

Devotion 2: God Is Our Righteous Judge

The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. Deuteronomy 32:4

After every tragedy, the media abounds with reports of people asking, “If there is a good and loving God, why is

there so much pain and suffering in the world?” Have you ever asked this question or heard this question asked?

As the infinitely good God, the Creator fashioned a world that manifested his goodness according to his pleasure and for his glory. He established rules for his creation to follow. The standard to which he held his creation is himself: absolute goodness. With one bite of fruit, Adam fell short of that standard. With every act of disobedience, we too fall short of his standard.

Because God is absolutely pure and holy, untouched by sin, he cannot partake in sin nor approve of it in others. He established a penalty for falling short of his standard: death. The goodness and holiness of God demands that he judge sin. As the righteous judge, he had no choice but to carry out the punishment that he had set for breaking his rules.

He imposed a sentence from which we have no means of escaping on our own. We can't get away from our punishment for sin—death, eternal separation from our Creator.

When a murderer is given a sentence for his crime, do we blame the judge who sentenced him? The answer to the age-old question, “Why?” lies not at the feet of the Creator but in the bite of a fruit by man.

As you share with the children today about the second and third C's in our journey through time—the corruption that entered the universe after Adam sinned and the catastrophe that resulted from God's judgment on sin—be careful to emphasize that the mess we find ourselves in

is not the fault of our good and loving Creator. This helps children answer the “why” question when they encounter a tragedy. In general, this is the result of living in a cursed world, which is the deserved punishment for sin. We need to also continually point them toward the great gift that the Creator has for us (salvation through Jesus Christ), which we'll talk more about later.

Read Psalm 89:14 and think about the words of this Puritan prayer.

Thou Maker and Sustainer of all things,
Day and night are thine,
heaven and earth declare thy glory;
But I, a creature of thy power and bounty, have sinned
against thee
by resisting the dictates of conscience,
the demands of thy law,
the calls of thy gospel;
yet I live under the dispensation of a given hope.
Deliver me from worldly dispositions,
for I am born from above and bound for glory.
May I view and long after holiness
as the beauty and dignity of the soul.

—Arthur Bennett, *The Valley of Vision*
(Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2005), 139.

Devotion 3: God Is the Infinite Sustainer

And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us. Acts 17:26–27

Imagine if our entire world spoke the same language. Even with our English-speaking world of over 300 million people, what have we accomplished?

It's easy to pat ourselves on our backs about how much we have done. This attitude is perhaps best demonstrated at NASA. A tour of the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA, provides a glimpse at the massive machines and impressive technology NASA scientists have produced. During one segment of the tour, a narrator intones that with man “nothing is impossible.” Another narrator, an astronaut, affirms this attitude, “Whatever we can conceive, we can achieve.”

Do such arrogant statements shock you?

If you're familiar with today's lesson, they shouldn't. Read Genesis 11:4–6.

At the time of the tower of Babel, people arrogantly thought they could achieve whatever they wanted. However, God judged their rebellion by bringing a multiplicity of languages, causing them to scatter over the earth.

Why does mankind today have this same philosophy: “And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them” (Genesis 11:6)?

Ever since the temptation in the garden of Eden, when Satan said Eve would be like God, knowing good and evil (Genesis 3:5), mankind has been in rebellion against God, trying to be god. The first judgment was the entrance of death into the world. Later, God judged mankind's rebellion with a watery catastrophe. And in today's lesson, we find a judgment that included a confusion of mankind's one common language into many languages.

So, what should our attitude be? Read Acts 17:24–31. These verses show that God is the Infinite Sustainer of all things—apart from him, we can do nothing. He gives us life, breath, and everything else. In him, we live and move and have our being.

Today, let's look for opportunities to show the children the importance of walking humbly before the Infinite Sustainer, recognizing our continual need for him. We need to carefully reflect any glory that might come our way to God, and teach our children to do the same.

Read Colossians 1:15–17 and think about this Puritan prayer.

O God All-Sufficient,
Thou hast made and upholdest all things by the word of
thy power;

darkness is thy pavilion,
 thou walkest on the wings of the wind;
 all nations are nothing before thee;
 one generation succeeds another,
 and we hasten back to the dust;
 the heavens we behold will vanish away
 like the clouds that cover them,
 the earth we tread on will dissolve as a morning dream;
 But thou, unchangeable and incorruptible,
 art for ever and ever,
 God over all, blessed eternally.
 Infinitely great and glorious art thou.
 We are thy offspring and thy care.
 Thy hands have made and fashioned us.
 Thou hast watched over us with more than parental love,
 more than maternal tenderness.
 Thou hast holden our soul in life,
 and not suffered our feet to be moved.

Thy divine power has given us all things
 necessary for life and godliness.
 Let us bless thee at all times and forget not
 how thou hast
 forgiven our iniquities,
 healed our diseases,
 redeemed our lives from destruction,
 crowned us with lovingkindness and
 tender mercies,
 satisfied our mouths with good things,
 renewed our youth like the eagle's.
 May thy Holy Scriptures
 govern every part of our lives,
 and regulate the discharge of all our duties,
 so that we may adorn thy doctrine in all things.

—Arthur Bennett, *The Valley of Vision*
 (Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2005), 211.

Devotion 4: God Is the Sovereign Savior

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein. Psalm 24:1

Fill in the following blanks.

1. ____ told Noah how to build the ark.
2. God provided all that ____ needed, including great wisdom.
3. God brought all the ____ to the ark at just the right time.
4. God provided a seaworthy, safe way for man and animals to ____.
5. God shut the ____ after Noah, his family, and the animals entered the ark.
6. God caused the ____ to cover the entire earth.
7. God directed Noah when to leave the ____.
8. God provided the ____ as a sign that he would never send another global flood.

Based on these statements, what attribute of God do you think we are focusing on today? *He is the sovereign Savior of the world.*

Although each of the questions in the quiz highlights God's sovereign salvation as seen in the account of the Genesis flood, let's focus specifically on number five.

In his instructions for building the ark, God told Noah to put a door in the side of the ark (Genesis 6:16). The ark had only one door to pass through to escape God's terrible judgment. By faith, Noah and his family entered the ark. Once they were all inside, the Lord shut them in (Genesis 7:16).

What is significant about God shutting the door of the ark? After God shut the door, the time of judgment was at hand. Only those who had gone through the doorway would be saved. No one else could enter. Noah and his family had to obey God's command to build and then enter the ark for salvation—but God commanded the

construction of the ark as the means of saving Noah's family in this time of judgment.

The ark is a picture of salvation in Jesus Christ, our "ark" of salvation. Jesus said that he is the door of salvation (John 10:9).

The Bible makes it clear that we are dead in our sins (Ephesians 2:1). Nothing we can do can save us from our sin and its consequence of eternal separation from God. But the Bible also tells us that if we confess with our mouths the Lord Jesus and believe in our hearts that God has raised him from the dead, we will be saved (Romans 10:9). We are saved by grace through faith as a result of God's gift to us (Ephesians 2:8). Salvation is all due to God. Our responsibility is to go through the doorway (Jesus), and God will save us.

The next judgment will be by fire (2 Peter 3:5–12). God has provided salvation through the ark—his Son, Jesus Christ. Many are hearing the warning of the coming judgment, but who will enter through the God-given means of salvation—the death and resurrection of Jesus on our behalf? A time is coming when God will close this door. Are we ready?

Let's close this time by reading Acts 4:10–12 and thinking about this Puritan prayer.

Sovereign Lord,
 Thy will is supreme in heaven and earth,
 and all beings are creatures of thy power.
 Thou art the Father of our spirits;
 thy inspiration gives us understanding,
 thy providence governs our lives.
 But, O God, we are sinners in thy sight;
 thou hast judged us so,

and if we deny it we make thee a liar.
Yet in Christ thou art reconciled to thy
rebellious subjects;
Give us the ear of faith to hear him,
the eye of faith to see him,
the hand of faith to receive him,

the appetite of faith to feed upon him;
that we might find in him light,
riches, honour, eternal life.

—Arthur Bennett, *The Valley of Vision*
(Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2005), 222.

Devotion 5: God Is the Loving Redeemer

Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:45, 47

As we wrap up our journey from Genesis to Revelation, let’s take a look at the connection between the seven C’s.

God is the Good Creator: The one who created a “very good” world is the one who will restore his creation to its original glory.

The one who created the first man is the one who came to be the second man—the last Adam.

The one who breathed into Adam the breath of life is the one who gives eternal life to his children.

God is the Righteous Judge: The one who sentenced the first man to death for his rebellion is the one who came and suffered the sentence of death on behalf of mankind.

God is the Infinite Sustainer: The one who created time is the one who stepped into time so that he could live as a human.

The one who confused the languages at Babel is the one before whom people from every tribe, nation, and tongue will bow and worship.

The one who scattered the people around the world is the one who commands us to go into all the world and preach the gospel, making disciples of all nations.

God is the Sovereign Savior: The one who provided an ark for Noah and his family is the one who provided the Savior of the world.

The one who judged the world with water is the one who will judge the world with fire.

The one in whom all things hold together is the one who became part of his creation, born as a baby.

Today, let’s take a look at another attribute of God seen in the last C.

God is the Loving Redeemer: The one who killed animals to cover the sin of Adam and Eve is the one who came to bleed on the cross for sinners.

The one who placed a curse on the creation is the one who came to redeem his creation from the curse.

The one who promised to send someone to crush the head of the serpent is the one who fulfilled the promise by rising from the dead, conquering the “last enemy.”

The one who created the heavens and earth is the one who will create a new heavens and earth wherein righteousness and his children will dwell.

Why has God done all this? “For God so loved the world” (John 3:16).

As you talk with the children today, look for opportunities to share the love of the Creator and Redeemer with them, pointing them toward the one who has done so much for us.

Let’s close by reading 1 Corinthians 15:21 and thinking about this Puritan prayer.

O Thou Most High,
Creator of the ends of the earth,
Governor of the universe,
Judge of all men,
Head of the church,
Savior of sinners;

thy greatness is unsearchable,
thy goodness infinite,
thy compassions unfailing,
thy providence boundless,
thy mercies ever new.

We bless thee for the words of salvation.

How important, suitable, encouraging
are the doctrines, promises, and invitations
of the gospel of peace!

We are lost: but in it thou hast presented to
us a full, free and eternal salvation;
weak: but here we learn that help is found
in one that is mighty;

poor: but in him we discover unsearchable
riches,

blind: but we find he has treasures of
wisdom and knowledge.

We thank thee for thy unspeakable gift.

Thy Son is our only refuge, foundation, hope, confidence;

We depend upon his death,

rest in his righteousness,

desire to bear his image;

May his glory fill our minds,

his love reign in our affections,

his cross inflame us with ardour.

—Arthur Bennett, *The Valley of Vision*
(Carlisle, PA: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2005), 219.



PLANNING

CHART YOUR COURSE

Planning your VBS may feel like a big task. But never fear! From budgeting to decorating to a Countdown Calendar, this section provides the information you'll need to make informed decisions and easily navigate your way through *The Great Jungle Journey*.

Choose a Format

Five-day? Three-day? Morning? Evening? At home? At church? There are a variety of options to consider when planning your VBS. Choose from the options listed below or devise your own. *The Great Jungle Journey* is designed for a three-hour, five-day experience, but it can be easily adapted to a variety of situations.

- **Five-Day Morning VBS:** VBS runs Monday through Friday in the morning. One advantage to this format is its outreach appeal. Many parents are looking for fun summertime options for their children during the day.
- **Five-Day Evening VBS:** VBS runs either Monday through Friday in the evening or Sunday through Thursday in the evening, with the closing program following on Friday evening. One advantage to this format is that church members who work during the day are able to help during the evening.
- **Three-Day VBS:** VBS runs morning and evening for two days with the fifth session on either the morning or evening of the third day. This option may be advantageous if you are renting a facility or if your church is available for limited days.

Alternately, you may want to cover just three of the days. For this option, we suggest covering Day 1 on the first day, a combo of Day 2 and Day 3 on the second day, and a combo of Day 4 and Day 5 on the third day.

- **Backyard Bible Club:** VBS is held in a home. Anyone in the church who has a heart to reach his neighborhood can host VBS from home. An advantage of this format is its small and personal nature.

Depending on your time and staffing constraints, you'll want to choose from the variety of activities offered that will work best for you. The Bible lesson time is the most important, so be sure to schedule around that. For mixed ages, use the *Primary Teacher Guide* and allow about 35–40 minutes. If you do the assembly openings and closings, determine whether you will have time for songs. For the drama, you may want to purchase the Drama Download rather than perform it live (12-1-059) or try the shorter daily skits as an option. Determine whether you have time for the Mission Moment. Snacks and games are good options to choose and consider doing either a science experiment or craft.

- **Christian School or Homeschool Co-op:** VBS is held in a Christian school or homeschool setting during the school year. This is appropriate if your church does not host a summer VBS program, or if you want to expand upon this one. The Bible lesson time is the most important, so be sure to add or subtract activities (e.g., assemblies, crafts, snacks, games) based on your time and staffing constraints.
- **Christian Camp:** VBS runs one or more weeks throughout the summer at a Christian camp. This VBS adapts well to a camp setting.
- **VBS on the Road:** Take VBS on the road. Use it on a youth mission trip, with an inner city ministry, or in a neighborhood park. This can multiply your effectiveness, using your VBS program not only for your own church but also for another church or ministry.
- **VBS with Another Church:** Sometimes churches in the same community like to join together and host the VBS. This allows churches to pool resources and manpower.

A Day at The Great Jungle Journey

A day at *The Great Jungle Journey* is divided into rotations with 5-minute breaks between each rotation that allow children to get to the next location. Rather than staying in one room for the whole day, children are on the move, rotating from site to site with their groups.

The site rotation plan enables VBS volunteers to specialize in just one area rather than requiring them to be responsible for multiple areas. People may be more willing to help if they know their responsibility is limited to just crafts, teaching, or games. This also allows your volunteers to specialize in an area they are gifted in.

Children enjoy the site rotation plan as well because they are constantly on the move, hearing and experiencing different sights, sounds, and people. The rotation schedule for each group is the same each day.

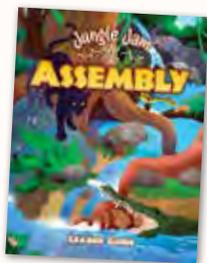
The Great Jungle Journey is designed to take between 2.5 and 3 hours daily to allow adequate time to complete each rotation. The 3-hour plan is recommended because of the content-rich program. Decide which schedule (see page “Sample Schedules: Morning VBS” on page 35 for sample schedules) and which rotations work best for you and plan to venture through the day in the following order.

Opening Assembly

To begin the day, everyone meets at the Jungle Jam Assembly. The opening assembly consists of a wacky welcome, singing, a Mission Moment, announcements, and prayer. For the Mission Moment, we’re partnering with Children’s Hunger Fund to provide meals and the gospel to hungry children. See the *Assembly Guide* for more information on the assemblies.

FOR YOUR ASSEMBLY LEADERS

- ❑ 1 *Assembly Guide* (12-1-006) for each leader, drama coordinator, and mission leader
- ❑ 1 Music Leader Download (includes contemporary and traditional song lyric videos, hand-motion videos, presentation images of songs, and song lyrics)
- ❑ **Children’s Hunger Fund videos**



Rotation Sites

Children visit five different rotation sites.

Lesson Time

At Rain or Shine Bible Time, children meet their teachers, who present the day’s Bible lesson and apologetics content in appealing ways. See the age-appropriate teaching guides for more information.

FOR EACH TEACHER

- ❑ 1 age-appropriate Teacher Resource Kit (Teacher Guide, 1 set of teacher posters, 1 set of Animal Pal Posters, 1 set of Memory Verse Posters)
- ❑ Memory verse songs (Music Leader Download)—the daily memory verses set to fun music; includes audio and video files. If you choose to use the audio files, you may want to have your teacher upload the songs to a music player on a smartphone and then use a small amplifier that works with the phone to project the music.



FOR EACH STUDENT

These items can be handed out at the end of the class or given to the group guides to keep until the end of the day. Adventure Guides can be stamped by the teachers during this time or during the welcome time at the beginning of the day by the group guides.

- ❑ 1 set of age-appropriate student guides (available in ESV and KJV)
- ❑ 7 C’s Map (12-1-078)
- ❑ Gospel Bookmark (12-1-076)
- ❑ Books of the Bible Bookmark (12-1-077)
- ❑ Adventure Journal (available in ESV and KJV, Junior/Primary and Pre-Primary/Toddler)
- ❑ *Exploring God’s Word* Bible Study (12-1-075)



Science and Crafts

At the science and craft site, children create fun crafts and engage in interactive science experiments that are theme-related and reinforce the day's Bible content. You may choose to do either the experiments or the crafts or a combination of both, depending on your budget, time, and the interests of your children. See the *Tree-mendous Science and Craft Guide* for more information.



FOR EACH SCIENCE AND CRAFTS TEACHER

- ❑ 1 *Tree-mendous Science and Craft Guide* (12-1-010)

Mission and Music

If you'd like to feature a music, mission, or memory verse review time, see the *Travelers' Missions, Music & Memory Verses Guide* (12-1-014), which includes ideas for these options. Adding these rotations gives kids the opportunity to better learn the motions to the music and learn more about the mission project.

You may want to combine one of these with the snack time or add a separate rotation for music and mission time. To add a rotation, shorten the other rotations to make time for an additional one. Some who have done this have kept all the children together for the Bible lesson after the opening assembly and then let them rotate through the remaining sites in individual groups for the remaining time. This allows for a longer Bible lesson time, while the other sites have shortened sessions.

FOR EACH LEADER

- ❑ 1 Music Leader Download (includes both contemporary and traditional song lyric videos, hand-motion videos, presentation images of songs, and song lyrics)
- ❑ 1 *Travelers' Missions, Music & Memory Verses Guide* (12-1-014)
- ❑ **Mission Moment videos** and **handouts**



Games and Snacks

At these sites, children spend half the time playing games and the other half eating snacks. Games and snacks are theme-related and reinforce the day's Bible content. See the *Rainforest Recreation Guide* and *Canopy Café Snack Guide* for more information.

FOR EACH LEADER

- ❑ 1 *Rainforest Recreation Guide* (12-1-008) for each game leader
- ❑ 1 *Canopy Café Snack Guide* (12-1-009) for each snack leader



Closing Assembly

The children gather again at the Jungle Jam Assembly for a drama or quick skit, more singing, a Creature Feature, contest announcements, and dismissal. See the *Assembly Guide* for detailed information.



FOR THE DRAMA

- ❑ 1 Daily Drama Download (12-1-059)—This features five videos (approximately 12 minutes each) that highlights a jungle river cruise company that plans to take guests out to different ports of call (7 "seas"), but a catastrophe leaves them stranded in the jungle.

Map Out Your Space

Your church may be small, large, or somewhere in between. You may be landlocked or have outdoor space. Take some time to think through your particular space configuration and plan where each rotation site will work best so you can design your specific schedules.

The following suggestions are based on a VBS with 100 or fewer children. Plan to keep each group to approximately 15 students or fewer. Two groups can rotate together (30 kids approximately) if the rooms are big enough to accommodate them. For example, two groups can go to craft time together, two to snacks/games, and two to lesson time, assuming the age ranges are compatible. If you plan to have more than 100 children, add extra sets of rotation sites as needed.

- **Opening and Closing:** All children are together at this time, so you'll need a large room that can accommodate everybody, such as your sanctuary or fellowship hall. This area should ideally feature the following:
 - » Sound system (including microphone and media players)
 - » Screen
 - » Projector
 - » Stage (on which to conduct the daily drama)
- **Games and Snacks:** Children visit both these spots during the same rotation time, so place these rotation sites in close proximity to each other. One group can play games while the other eats snacks, then they can switch halfway through. Or both groups can play games at the same time, then go to snacks together.

It's great to have a place outside to play and eat, but also consider your gym or an open area close to a kitchen. For snacks, children can sit either on the ground or in an area with tables and chairs.

To modify this for a larger VBS, plan to have three snack areas *and* three game areas (one for Pre-Primaries, one for Primaries, and one for Juniors).
- **Science and Crafts:** Choose a large room with space for tables that kids can stand around. Use lower tables for younger children. Place a few chairs around the edges

of the room for those who might need to sit down. Make sure it's an area that is tarped and can be easily cleaned.

To modify this for a larger VBS, plan to have three separate craft areas (one for Pre-Primaries, one for Primaries, and one for Juniors).

Your area may also include the following:

- » Screen/projector/media player (to project directions and play the VBS music)
- » Sound system (to verbally share directions and play the VBS music)
- » Memory verse posters (if you add a Memory Time to this rotation)

- **Lesson Time:** Classrooms work well for this rotation. Assign larger classrooms to the groups that have the most children, especially if these are older children. You'll need one teaching classroom for every 1–2 groups in a rotation. (It's best to have just one group per classroom if possible for more individualized attention.)

Note: If your groups are multiage, rather than separated by ages or grades, use the Primary teaching material for all groups.
- Pre-Primaries spend half of their time engrossed in learning centers (exploration stations) and the other half in teacher-directed time. The stations can be in one part of the room and the teacher-directed time in the other part, or these can be divided into two rooms that are next to each other. If stations aren't possible in your setting, suggestions are given in the Pre-Primary Guide to easily adapt to all teacher-directed lesson time.
- Toddlers spend most of their time in one area (they join the rest of the VBS for the opening and closing assemblies), so plan enough rooms to accommodate the number of Toddlers you have registered.
- If you choose to divide children by age or grade (e.g., all first graders together), place all sites for that group relatively close to each other to cut down on travel time. For example, when planning the Junior locations, locate the game, snack, craft, and teaching areas for Juniors as close as possible to each other.

Assembling Group Supplies

To help keep everyone organized, assemble two containers—one bag and one laundry basket or 4.5-gallon storage bin—for each group guide.

The bag will hold the group's daily supplies. The other bin can be used as a materials drop-off location for each group. It should remain in the same spot all week long. Use this bin to deposit flyers, daily memos, or new supplies. The group guide can store the children's take-home items in this bin as well.

Invite some administrative friends to a container-stuffing party a few days before VBS. At this gathering, you will prepare the bag and container for each group. Group guides should pick up these supplies the day before VBS begins. Listed below is a suggested plan for preparing the containers.

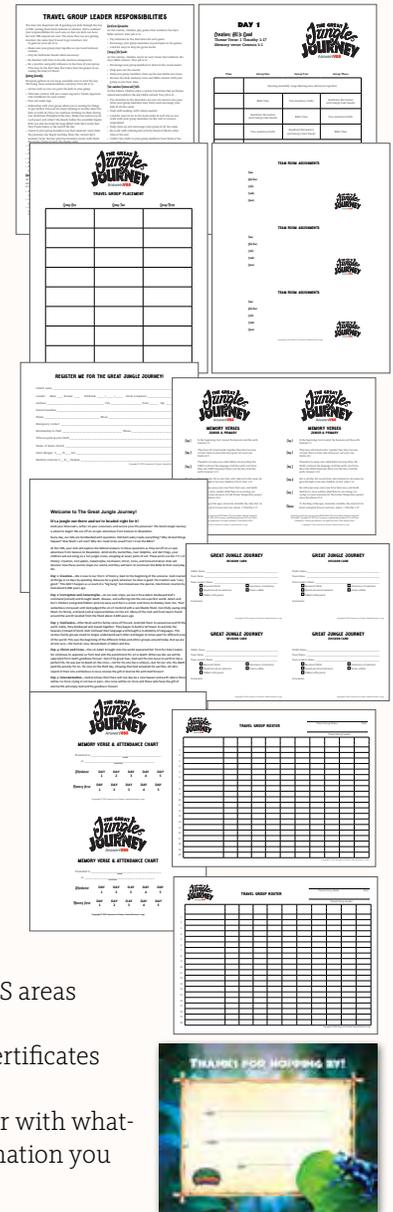
- Make the needed copies ahead of time and prepare supplies so your work crew can focus on counting, sorting, and stuffing.
- Print the travel group names (such as "Army Ants" or "Jaguars") on card stock, two copies for each group name. Using clear packing tape, attach one copy to the bag and one to the lid of a 4.5-gallon storage bin or the side of a laundry basket.

In each bin, include the following:

- Name tags (include extras for walk-ins)
- 1-2 black permanent markers to write names on name tags
- 1-2 pens for general use
- Sharpened pencils or washable markers, 1 per child
- Crayons
- **Coloring and Activity Pages**
- 5 adhesive bandages in a zippered bag
- 10- to 15-foot lengths of rope (or longer if you have a large class) to be used by preschoolers as they walk from area to area



- Lunch bags, which will be used to send home daily papers. Additional bags will need to be distributed each day to the group guides.
- **Team Leader Responsibilities**
- **Daily Schedule**
- **Team Placement**
- **Lesson Time Room Schedule**
- **Registration Forms**
- **Memory Verse Pages**, 1 per child
- **Caretaker Handbook**, 1 per child
- **Decision Cards**
- **Attendance Chart**, 1 per child
- **Team Roster** with preregistered children listed for each team, 1 copy for each day of VBS
- Map of church with VBS areas clearly marked
- Visitor Appreciation Certificates (12-1-013)
- Memo from the director with whatever last-minute information you want to convey



Sample Schedules: Morning VBS

3 hours

Time	Group One	Group Two	Group Three
9:00–9:15	Jungle Jam Assembly—Opening: Large Meeting Area (Everyone together)		
9:20–10:00	Rain or Shine Bible Time	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks
10:05–10:45	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks	Rain or Shine Bible Time	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts
10:50–11:30	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks	Rain or Shine Bible Time
11:35–Noon	Jungle Jam Assembly—Closing: Large Meeting Area (Everyone together)		

3 Hours with Additional Rotation

Time	Group One	Group Two	Group Three
9:00–9:15	Jungle Jam Assembly—Opening: Large Meeting Area (Everyone together)		
9:20–9:50	Rain or Shine Bible Time	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks
9:55–10:25	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks	Rain or Shine Bible Time	Travelers' Missions, Music, and Memory Verses
10:30–11:00	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts	Travelers' Missions, Music, and Memory Verses	Rain or Shine Bible Time
11:05–11:35	Travelers' Missions, Music, and Memory Verses	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts
11:40–Noon	Jungle Jam Assembly—Closing: Large Meeting Area (Everyone together)		

3 Hours with Bible Lesson All Together

Time	Group One	Group Two	Group Three
9:00–9:15	Jungle Jam Assembly—Opening: Large Meeting Area (Everyone together)		
9:20–10:00	Rain or Shine Bible Time		
10:05–10:30	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks	Travelers' Missions, Music, and Memory Verses	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts
10:35–11:00	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks	Travelers' Missions, Music, and Memory Verses
11:05–11:30	Travelers' Missions, Music, and Memory Verses	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks
11:35–Noon	Jungle Jam Assembly—Closing: Large Meeting Area (Everyone together)		

2 hours and 45 minutes

Time	Group One	Group Two	Group Three
9:15–9:30	Jungle Jam Assembly—Opening: Large Meeting Area (Everyone together)		
9:35–10:10	Rain or Shine Bible Time	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks
10:15–10:50	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks	Rain or Shine Bible Time	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts
10:55–11:30	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks	Rain or Shine Bible Time
11:35–Noon	Jungle Jam Assembly—Closing: Large Meeting Area (Everyone together)		

2 hours and 30 minutes

Time	Group One	Group Two	Group Three
9:30–9:40	Jungle Jam Assembly—Opening: Large Meeting Area (Everyone together)		
9:45–10:20	Rain or Shine Bible Time	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks
10:25–11:00	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks	Rain or Shine Bible Time	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts
11:05–11:40	Tree-mendous Science and Crafts	Rainforest Recreation and Canopy Café Snacks	Rain or Shine Bible Time
11:45–Noon	Jungle Jam Assembly—Closing: Large Meeting Area (Everyone together)		

Sample Schedules: Evening VBS

Modify the prior schedules as follows:

- For a VBS lasting 2 hours and 30 minutes, start at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.
- For a VBS lasting 2 hours and 45 minutes, start at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:45 p.m.
- For a 3-hour VBS, start at 6:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m.

Note: Because many people come from work for an evening VBS, some churches run a concession stand or serve a meal beginning an hour before VBS. This can be a wonderful blessing to working families and helps ensure they can be at VBS. Providing meals is a big undertaking, so this task needs dedicated people to organize it and devote each VBS afternoon to food preparation. Check the Resource Download for a **sample concession stand menu** and **treasure hunt ideas** to use during this pre-VBS time.

Sample Team Placement

Group One	Group Two	Group Three
Howler Monkeys (4 years)	Harpy Eagles (5 years)	Red-Eyed Tree Frogs (6 years)
Toco Toucans (7 years)	Capybaras (8 years)	Tapirs (9 years)
Orangutans (10 years)	Jaguars (11 years)	Scarlet Macaws (12 years)

Sample Bible Lesson Time Room Schedule

Age Group	Rotation One (Group One)	Rotation Two (Group Two)	Rotation Three (Group Three)	Room Number	Teachers
Pre-Primary	Howler Monkeys	Harpy Eagles	Red-Eyed Tree Frogs	Room 100/102	Sandy Smith (Lesson Time) Abby Rogers (Exploration Stations Time)
Primary	Toco Toucans	Capybaras	Tapirs	Room 205	Ted McKenzie Susan McKenzie
Junior	Orangutans	Jaguars	Scarlet Macaws	Room 209	John Williams Becky Williams

VBS Budget Worksheet

Category	Last Year's Budget	Last Year's Actual	This Year's Budget	This Year's Actual
Teaching Supplies				
Decorations				
Science and Crafts				
Snacks				
Games				
Drama/Music/ Multimedia				
Publicity/ Photography				
Contests/Prizes				
Nursery Supplies				
Office Supplies/ Postage				
Miscellaneous				
Total Expenses				

Countdown Calendar Worksheet

Month _____

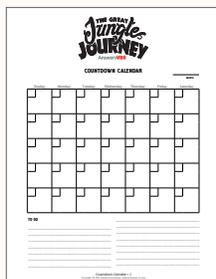
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

TO DO

Director's Countdown Calendar

Five Months Before

- Pray! Prayer is not preparation for your work, it *is* your work! Be faithful to pray before, during, and after your VBS.
- Print six copies of the **Countdown Calendar**. Fill in the month and days accordingly. Use these calendars to keep your VBS preparation under control.
- Read all manuals.
- Determine the projected number of children.
- Meet with your pastor to decide goals, format, dates, times, and budget. Mark the dates on the church's master calendar.
- Begin to assemble your leadership team, starting with a prayer coordinator, a publicity coordinator, and an assistant director. Give them copies of the following:
 - » Prayer Coordinator: page 23
 - » Publicity Coordinator: Section Five—Promotion
 - » Assistant Director: order another *Director Guide* (12-1-005)
- Plan next month's initial staff meeting with your leadership team and notify them of the date. Items to be covered include praying together, announcing the theme, laying out job specifics, brainstorming, and setting deadlines for all preparations.



Four Months Before

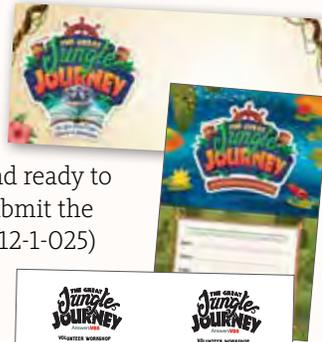
- Continue to pray.
- Meet with the publicity coordinator and decide on a publicity plan with specific tasks and target dates. Order and prepare publicity materials. See the *Resource Catalog*.
- Meet with the prayer coordinator and begin to enlist the prayer support of your church family.
- Recruit the rest of the leadership team. This includes the coordinators listed in Section Four—Recruitment.
- Conduct the initial staff meeting with the leadership team. Distribute copies of the Countdown Calendar and the appropriate manuals to team members.
- Announce the date and time of VBS in your church bulletin or newsletter (12-1-024). Send “Save the Date” postcards (12-1-026) to all church children and VBS attendees from last year.



No matter when your VBS is, we recommend that you begin ordering all parts of your VBS in January to take advantage of larger discounts and to ensure item availability. Check the Resource Catalog for discounts.

Three Months Before

- Continue to pray.
- Determine the number of groups needed.
- Order teacher guides and resources, student guides, an outdoor banner, and other supplementary supplies. See *Resource Catalog*.
- Make an announcement in church to share the theme and get everyone enthused and ready to pitch in for this year's VBS. Submit the Volunteer Recruitment Flyer (12-1-025) for placement in the church bulletin or newsletter. See the Resource Download for a **Volunteer Registration Form**.
- Plan next month's Teacher Workshop. See page 59. Notify the teaching team of the date with the printable **workshop invitation**.
- Begin to execute the publicity plan.
- Check with all members of the leadership team to assess their progress and encourage them.
- Assemble the rest of your team.
- Make sure the craft, snack, and game coordinators have their supply lists ready to share with the church family within the next month.
- Plan the mission project. See the *Assembly Guide* for possibilities.
- Decide on registration plans and prepare **child registration forms** for next month's registration. Or set up registration through myAnswers.com.
- Post a catchy advertisement on the church's website with pictures from last year's VBS.



Two Months Before

- Continue to pray.
- Conduct the Teacher Workshop.
- Identify staffing holes in the VBS team and recruit the remaining staff.
- Plan the Volunteer Workshop, which will be held next month. Announce the date(s) and time(s) of the workshop in your church bulletin or newsletter. Order one *Helper Handbook* (12-1-007) for each volunteer or make copies of necessary pages yourself and assemble into packets.
- Set up an information counter (VBS Headquarters) and make an announcement about needed craft, snack, and game supplies along with props, costumes, and decorations. Set up labeled donation boxes to collect supplies.
- Begin registering children.
- Check with all members of the leadership team to assess progress and encourage them.
- Order music CDs or purchase licenses to distribute the MP3s (see *Resource Catalog*) so children can begin learning the songs.
- Order T-shirts or make your own with iron-on transfers (12-1-107, 12-1-109).
- Order name tags (12-1-015 or 12-1-106) or make your own. Begin plans for the pre-VBS carnival.



Visit myAnswers.com to set up free online registration and upgrade to Digital Pro!



One Month Before

- Continue to pray.
- Meet with the pastor and plan the dedication service. Update him on the VBS progress.
- Conduct the Volunteer Workshop.
- Check with all members of the leadership team to encourage them and make sure they are on schedule with their particular responsibilities.
- Decide on group names (see the Jungle A-Z page in this guide for possible ideas) and begin to assign children to groups. See the Resource Download for a printable **Team Roster**. Check on craft, snack, and other donations. Purchase additional supplies as needed. Put a banner or sign up in front of the church.
- Plan the Closing Program (see the *Assembly Guide*) and follow-up efforts. See page 98.
- Implement safety and emergency plans. See page 52.
- Plan the Gospel Workshop and inform everyone of the date with the printable **workshop invitation**. See page 59.
- Using the **sample Caretaker Handbook**, write up your own version.
- Mail invitation postcards (12-1-027) to all church children, past VBS attendees, and other prospective children.

TRAVEL GROUP ROSTER	
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Two Weeks Before

- Continue to pray.
- Assess registration. Assign new registrants to groups.
- Write names on name tags for children and staff. Begin sorting name tags into bags for each group.
- Update the church bulletin insert with last-minute supplies that are still needed.
- Organize supply bins for group guides. See page 34.
- Check on the teachers' progress and see if they have questions or need supplies.
- Make copies of the *Caretaker Handbook*, one per child.
- Determine the other forms and flyers you need and begin to customize and copy.
- Order the *Exploring God's Word* follow-up Bible study (12-1-075), 1 per child.
- Order additional student guides and other supplies if necessary.
- Order staff appreciation postcards (12-1-012), visitor appreciation certificates (12-1-013), and certificates of completion (12-1-011).
- Host the pre-VBS carnival.



One Week Before

- Continue to pray.
- Conduct the Gospel Workshop.
- Dedicate the VBS crew during the church service prior to beginning VBS.
- Host a “decorating day” (see page 47) to decorate and set up your facility. Check with the church staff to find out if certain areas need to be untouched until after the last church service prior to the beginning of VBS.
- Ensure all positions have been filled.
- Check with all members of the leadership team to find out any last-minute needs.
- Continue to update the class lists with names of new children.
- Get the contests finalized and supplies all together.
- Ensure that the first-aid kits are replenished and safety and emergency plans are ready.

One Day Before

- Continue to pray. Have a prayer walk around the inside and outside of the building with members of your church family. Pray over every area.
- Finish decorating the church, including the set for the drama.
- Set up all areas with necessary supplies and label rooms with directional signs (Tree-mendous Science and Crafts—Juniors; Canopy Café Snacks—Primaries, etc.).
- Ensure all group guides have bags and up-to-date class lists. Group guides should walk through the schedule to prepare for the next day.

Be sure to order the following early in the year to take advantage of larger discounts and ensure item availability:

FOR EVERY PRIMARY AND JUNIOR CHILD:

- 1 Student Guide
- 1 Jungle Adventure Guide
- 1 Gospel bookmark
- 1 Books of the Bible bookmark
- 1 7 C's Map
- 1 Name tag or name button
- 1 *Exploring God's Word* Bible study
- 1 Certificate of Completion
- 1 T-shirt or iron-on transfer
- 1 Music CD or license

FOR EVERY PRE-PRIMARY AND TODDLER CHILD:

- 1 Student Guide
- 1 Jungle Adventure Guide
- 1 Gospel bookmark
- 1 Books of the Bible bookmark
- 1 7 C's Map
- 1 Name tag or name button
- 1 Certificate of Completion
- 1 T-shirt or iron-on transfer
- 1 Music CD or license

FOR EVERY GROUP GUIDE:

- 1 Name tag or name button
- 1 *Helper Handbook*
- 1 T-shirt or iron-on transfer

During VBS

- Continue to pray.
- Faithfully and enthusiastically greet, encourage, and love the VBS crew and children.
- Be available to answer questions, troubleshoot, and help as needed.
- Pray each day with the crew before VBS begins.
- Update the class lists each day, adding new children who have joined.
- Arrange for substitutes as necessary.
- Make sure that contact information is complete for each child and records are faithfully kept.
- On the first day, send home a **Care-taker Handbook** with each child.
- Make final preparations for the Closing Program. Send home invitation postcards (12-1-030) midweek.
- Purchase additional supplies as needs arise.
- Meet with children who have further questions about salvation or who make decisions for Christ.
- Distribute certificates of completion (12-1-011), *Exploring God's Word* follow-up Bible studies, and any other take-home goodies to group leaders. They can organize them and give them to the children the last day of VBS. (Or give the follow-up Bible studies to the teachers to distribute to Juniors and Primaries during the last day's lesson.)



- Decide how to show your VBS crew members how much they are appreciated.
- Make sure **Decision Cards** are filled out, collected, and recorded for follow-up efforts.
- Encourage all crew members to clean their areas before leaving the last day. Label empty plastic bins (e.g., pens, unused adhesive bandages, unused name tags), and place the bins on tables so workers can sort remaining supplies into the appropriate bins. Have a large trash can nearby for discarding trash from their bins.

After VBS

- Continue to pray for the follow-up efforts.
- Hold a leadership debriefing session soon after VBS ends to evaluate how things went. Write recommendations for next year's VBS.
- Execute your plan to show VBS crew members your appreciation. Pass out staff appreciation postcards.
- Report to your church family with thanksgiving on the wonderful ways God worked through this year's VBS.
- Finalize all records and file accordingly.
- Oversee the follow-up plans. See Follow-Up section.
- Complete and send via email the **Director's Evaluation Form** to Answers in Genesis.

When you send in your Director's Evaluation Form, we'll send you a coupon for 10% off your next purchase from Answers in Genesis!

VBS Headquarters (Information Counter)

How do I register my child? What color card stock do the craft ladies need? How many bananas should I buy?

VBS generates lots of questions! And your VBS staff wants to be prepared with the answers. VBS Headquarters is a great way to keep communication flowing before and during VBS.

- Decide on a prime location and ask permission from the church staff to use it. This area should be highly visible and near the entrance.
- Set up the area 6–8 weeks before VBS. Recruit VBS volunteers to staff it during high traffic times.
- Decorate the area thematically to capture everyone's imagination. After all, this will be the children's first glance of VBS! See the Decorating section for ideas and check out [Pinterest.com/answersvbs](https://www.pinterest.com/answersvbs) for photos.
- Stock the following information or supplies at the counter:
 - » Music CDs (*Resource Catalog*)
 - » T-shirts (*Resource Catalog*)
 - » **Child registration forms**
 - » **Volunteer registration forms**
 - » **Nursery registration forms**
 - » Craft donation list (*Tree-mendous Science and Crafts Guide*)
 - » Science donation list (*Tree-mendous Science and Crafts Guide*)
 - » Snack donation list (*Canopy Café Snack Guide*)
 - » Game donation list (*Rainforest Recreation Guide*)
 - » Props donation list (*Assembly Guide*)

- » Decoration donation list
- » Promotional materials (*Resource Catalog* or make your own from the **clip art** and **logos**.)

Before VBS

Use the VBS Headquarters to answer questions, register workers and children, pass out promotional materials, collect donated supplies, and sell T-shirts and music CDs.

To capture the children's attention and keep excitement running high, offer weekly contests—who can sign up the most visitors, who can design a great promotional poster, who can learn a certain VBS song by the following week, etc. Give small prizes to those participating.

The VBS Headquarters can also serve as the registration booth for the pre-VBS carnival. (See page 67.) Just move it outside or to the location of the event, and you are set!

During VBS

This area becomes the daily VBS hub. Stock it with extras of the following:

- Copies of all papers going home (the **Caretaker Handbook**, the **memory verse reference sheet**, the individual contest sheets, etc.)
- Schedules
- Blank child and worker name tags
- Pens, pencils, markers, and other office supplies
- Adhesive bandages
- T-shirts and music CDs

On the first day of VBS, this area may also serve as the registration area if it is big enough to handle the registration process. Otherwise, registration can be in a separate spot.

Keep the information counter (VBS Headquarters) up until the week after VBS so people can turn in any left-over supplies.



Decorating Decisions

A colorful and engaging environment helps children learn better, remember more, and leave with happy memories. So be creative and use the tools and ideas in this section to transform the look of your facility and capture the imagination of the kids. They should feel like they are in a jungle when they enter your VBS space. So go bananas filling your space with the sights, sounds, feels, and smells of the jungle.

Top 10 Decorating Tips

1. Check [Pinterest.com/answersvbs](https://www.pinterest.com/answersvbs) and [YouTube.com/answersvbs](https://www.youtube.com/answersvbs) for fabulous pictures and step-by-step directions for key decorating elements. This will be a huge help to you!
2. Find a team of people who enjoy decorating and let them loose.
3. Decide which spaces you want to decorate. The spaces where all children meet or travel should receive the most attention. These spaces include entryways, foyers, hallways, a large assembly room, and/or classrooms. (See the teacher guides for more information about classroom decorations.)
4. Decorations do not need to be expensive or elaborate. Check out thrift stores, garage sales, party supply stores, and internet sites for decorations. Communicate decorating needs through the church newsletter, bulletin insert, email loop, or social media site. Ask church members to loan, donate, or make items.
5. Kids love color! Be sure to keep decorations bright and fun.
6. Plan a day for volunteers to gather and make decorations. Provide the necessary supplies and consider serving some fun, thematic snacks.
7. The day before VBS, host a decorating party. Organize rooms as you desire. Remove or add furniture, chairs, toys, etc. Some floors should be tarped, particularly the craft room. After rooms are physically set, let the decorating begin!
8. Another way to accomplish decorating rooms is to host a room decorating contest. Build excitement with fun prizes and see what the VBS decorating teams create.
9. Be aware of fire code restrictions for your church.
10. Think about outside spaces. Use *The Great Jungle Journey* vinyl banner (12-1-032), along with a costumed character stationed nearby, to greet the kids as they arrive.

Key Decorating Elements

Decorating Posters

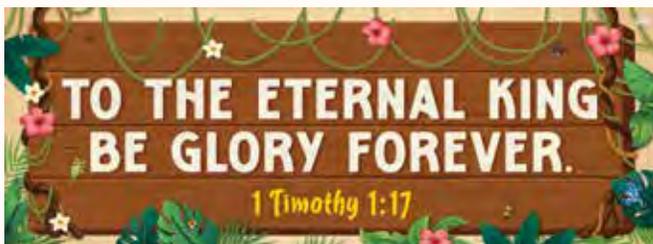
An easy way to decorate is with a variety of colorful posters, so be sure to check out the Decoration Poster Set (12-1-120) in the *Resource Catalog*.

Welcome Display

A large welcome sign at your main entrance should greet parents and children when they arrive at VBS—or better yet, a welcome display that is jungle themed. A large welcome poster is included in the Decoration Poster Set (12-1-120).

Theme Verse Sign

Displaying Scripture is always a good idea, especially the theme verse. A Theme Verse scene setter is available for purchase (12-1-121) from the *Resource Catalog*, or you can

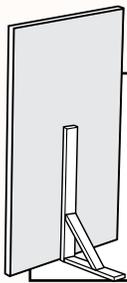


make your own large sign and hang it in a central location where everyone will see it.

Rotation Signs

Included in each Super Starter Kit is one sign for each of the following areas: Tree-mendous Crafts (12-1-019), Tree-mendous Science (12-1-045), Rainforest Recreation (12-1-018), and Canopy Café (12-1-017). You'll also find a Rain or Shine Bible





Prop up your set and any free-standing decorations with wooden jacks made from 2 x 4-in., 2 x 3-in., or 2 x 2-in. boards. Smaller decorations will need smaller jacks and larger decorations will need larger ones. If necessary, jacks can be weighted down with bags of sand or road salt.

Time sign (12-1-020) for your classrooms and a Jungle Jam sign (12-1-021) to display outside your large assembly room. Signs for Swinging Songs (12-1-034) and Memory Verse areas (12-1-035) are also available. To dress them up, mount the signs on colorful poster board or foam board before attaching them to the wall or hanging them from the ceiling. Additional signs can be purchased from the *Resource Catalog*.

Themed Photo Spot

A great way for kids and families to remember VBS is with photos. So set up and use one of the photo-op scene setters available for purchase (12-1-127) from the *Resource Catalog*. Or check out the DIY Jungle Boat Photo Spot from the Forest FunDay.



Themed Hallways and Areas

JUNGLE HALLWAY

For a jungle hallway, hang lots and lots (and lots!) of vines, large leaves, and leaf garland. And not only on the walls, but also on the ceiling as well!

Vines can be made cheaply and easily from brown or green roll paper. Cut the roll paper into long, 2-ft. strips and twist. Or cut plastic tablecloths into long vertical vines, four per tablecloth. (Take the plastic tablecloth out of the package but keep it folded exactly how it is when it comes out. Make V-like cuts going down both sides of the folded-up tablecloth—the left side of the V going down in diagonal cuts on the left side, and the right side going down in diagonal cuts on the right side—making sure not to cut through to the middle. Open it up and cut the top section apart so there are four vines.) Use light green, medium green, and dark green plastic tablecloths. Throw in occasional vines that are made from light yellow or light blue tablecloths too.

Add leaves that have been cut out of various hues of green construction paper or card stock. Throw in an occasional brown, black, or gold leaf as well (but not too many). Make different shapes and sizes of leaves to add variety.

Include lots of colorful shrubs and flowers. Tissue paper flowers are fun and can be made in different colors and sizes. See the how-to directions in the Forest FunDay Carnival section of this guide.

Add a variety of jungle birds, butterflies, reptiles, monkeys, snakes, and other animals. Some can be hanging from the ceiling, some taped to vines on the walls, and some propped on the floor (bigger ones). Two-dimensional props can be made out of a rigid material like foam board or corrugated cardboard. See the Resource Download for **clip art** images.

7 C'S HALLWAY

To help reinforce the teaching, make a 7 C's hallway. Large panels are available to purchase (12-1-123).



- Put up a "Welcome to the 7 C's of History" sign.
- Cover the walls by hanging plastic rectangular tablecloths or roll paper in consecutive color order going down the hall—first green, then dark, then bright blue, gray, white, red, and bright yellow.
- Mount the 7 C's teaching posters on painted corrugated cardboard, foam board, or roll paper to make them larger. Then hang them in their corresponding color section. (If you have access to a wide-format printer, consider making the posters even larger!)
- For each color section, add display elements themed to go with each section, such as the following. (See photos of these on Pinterest and YouTube. Address is on the next page.)
 - » CREATION—Feature a large cutout of the earth (or a bunch of small earths placed around the Creation poster); or try hanging elements that have to do with the six days of creation.
 - » CORRUPTION—Hang rubber snakes; or make a twisted tree with a snake and a piece of fruit in it.
 - » CATASTROPHE—Show a large cutout of the ark with hanging water drops or clouds with lightning bolts.
 - » CONFUSION—Make a large cutout of a ziggurat (tower) along with large words in other languages.

- » CHRIST—Make a black silhouette manger scene of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in the manger, and hang a light-up Christmas star above it.
- » CROSS—Feature either three crosses, or one cross with a crown of thorns.
- » CONSUMMATION—Fashion a large white cutout of a city wall with an open center gateway.

JUNGLE AT NIGHT GLOW ZONE

Designate a certain area or hallway as a “jungle at night” glow zone. Put black light bulbs in the light fixtures and cover the walls with black roll paper. Then decorate with jungle elements painted with neon acrylic paint. (A quick way to make glow-in-the-dark vines and leaves is to buy plastic vines and leaves, stick them in a trash bag with a little neon acrylic paint, and shake. Let them dry, then hang them up!) Hang LED fairy lights to simulate fireflies.

Clip Art Images

The Resource Download has numerous **clip art** images that are an essential part of your decorations. Use an overhead projector to enlarge and transfer the images onto paper, poster board, corrugated cardboard, or foam insulation.

HOW TO ENLARGE AND TRANSFER CLIP ART

1. Photocopy the clip art onto transparencies.
2. Place roll paper or a rigid material against a wall.
3. Using an overhead projector to enlarge the clip art, shine the image onto the paper or rigid material, adjusting it as necessary for the size desired.
4. Trace the image outlines onto the paper or rigid material.
5. Paint the image and cut out.

Other Key Ideas

1. Make a large faux waterfall. Check online for a variety of styles and methods, and check Pinterest and YouTube at the address below to see what one of the test churches made.
2. Make a dock, bridge, or boardwalk for the kids to walk across. Use wooden pallets and posts (with rope) laid on top of blue tarps.
3. Ask people to bring in thematic animals in safe tanks/containers such as fish, turtles, snakes, frogs, or lizards. Set up a display area and request that the owners take care of them throughout the week.
4. Make a large round jungle hut using 4 x 8 sheets of corrugated cardboard for walls and raffia skirting for the roof. Hang white Christmas lights inside to light it up.
5. Print some of the Terrific Trivia Tidbits presentation slides onto colored card stock and display them in various places around your facility. See the Resource Download for the **slides**.
6. Make Animal Pal scene setters (12-1-124) into free-standing decorations by mounting them on foam insulation and propping them up with wooden jacks.
7. Rent a mascot-type costume from a costume store and have someone wear it all week at VBS.
8. Colorful mylar or latex (12-1-092) balloons are a perfect accent—especially for entryways. A balloon arch makes a big impact! Choose colors used in the logo.
9. Station a lively team of costumed greeters to welcome the kids as they arrive at VBS.
10. For pre-VBS meetings, check Pinterest.com/answersvbs and YouTube.com/answersvbs for a myriad of fun decorating ideas!
11. A logo and wheel scene setter (12-1-125) add color and interest to any space.



Check [Pinterest.com/answersvbs](https://www.pinterest.com/answersvbs) and [YouTube.com/answersvbs](https://www.youtube.com/answersvbs) for more decoration ideas and photos from our test churches!



Large Assembly Room

The decorating of your Jungle Jam Assembly room consists primarily of the *Great Jungle Journey* set. (See illustration.) The set is your most important decorating piece and serves to communicate the VBS theme and create a setting for the live drama. Check the *Assembly Guide* for complete details. Scene setters for this area are also available (12-1-122).



Classrooms



To serve as a focal point for the teaching, the *Great Jungle Journey* classroom set features a jungle river backdrop and the front of a boat with a ship's wheel. Mounted on the wall adjacent to the backdrop are the teaching, animal pal, and memory verse posters. Check the teacher guides for complete details.

Classroom Scene Setter

As a quick and easy alternative to creating your own classroom backdrop, a scene setter is available for purchase (12-1-126) from the *Resource Catalog*.

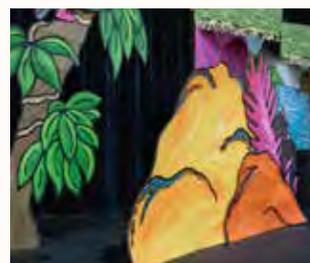


Exploration Stations

The Toddler and Pre-Primary classrooms will also enjoy Exploration Stations, which include the Discovery Center, the Touch Table Dry, the Touch Table Wet, the Dramatic Play area, and the Coloring Corner. See the teacher guides for more detailed information.

Puppet Stages

Puppets are used daily in the Toddler, Pre-Primary, and Primary (but not Junior) rooms. Add a large freestanding rock or bush in front of the set for the puppet to come out from behind. It should be high enough that the puppeteer can fit behind it unseen. A separate puppet stage can also be made with a large cardboard box or tri-fold presentation board. See the teacher guides for more detailed information.



Nursery News

Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise. Matthew 21:16

The youngest VBSers are 0–3 or 4 years old. Because this age group requires a high teacher-to-child ratio, you may want to provide nursery care for the children of VBS workers only rather than opening it up to the community.

This is a precious age group that is absorbing and learning lots about God, so plan to use this time wisely. Check out the before, during, and after VBS tips as you begin to plan for the tiny tots.

This VBS features a *Toddler Teacher Guide* (12-1-043) for ages 2–4 with lesson, activity, snack, craft, and recreation ideas. There is also a *Pre-Primary Teacher Guide* (12-1-042) that can be used with 4-year-olds if they are being grouped with 5- or 6-year-olds.



Before VBS

- Begin to pray for the children who will be under your care.
- Recruit workers. Having a good nursery staff in place helps with recruiting VBS workers who need childcare.
- Decide if you will include 4-year-olds in the nursery group or in the “big kid” VBS program. Also decide if this group will be just church kids or community kids as well.
- Enlist a leader for each room. Those in the 0–24-month rooms are responsible for providing loving childcare. Those in the 2–3-year-old rooms follow the *Toddler Teacher Guide* for a scheduled program. Those in the 4-year-old rooms follow either the *Toddler Teacher Guide* or the *Pre-Primary Teacher Guide*.
- Maintain a 3:1 child-to-adult ratio for the 0–24-month-olds, a 4:1 ratio for the 2–3-year-olds, and a 6:1 ratio for the 4-year-olds. Even if numbers are small, you still need a minimum of two workers in every VBS room.
- Do not pack too many children into a room. It is safer and saner to have reasonable numbers.
- As VBS recruiting progresses throughout the months before VBS, keep close tabs on the adults who have signed up to work. Check with each to see if they have 0 to 3- or 4-year-old children who will be in the nursery during VBS week.
- Keep good records of all children signed up for the pre-school area. Check the Resource Download for a **registration form**.
- List all allergies in a prominent spot so workers are alert to them.
- Clean and organize the rooms ahead of time. Check with your church’s

nursery supervisor for the normal procedures for readying the nursery rooms.

- Make sure the laundry is done before the week begins.
- Determine safety procedures. See the child safety precautions that follow for ideas.
- Send a letter to all nursery parents outlining the needs and expectations of the week. See the Resource Download for a **sample letter to parents**.
- If your church does not have an enclosed outdoor play area, prepare one by placing tarped hay bales in a rectangle. Place borrowed outdoor play toys inside the area.
- Read through the *Toddler Teacher Guide* and the *Pre-Primary Teacher Guide* for further information and specifics on teaching the 2–4-year-olds.

During VBS

- Continue to pray for your young ones.
- Nursery rooms should be opened fifteen minutes before the rest of the VBS crew is in place so workers can drop off children and get to their areas on time.
- Encourage nursery workers to arrive on time and be present throughout the week. Young children need the security of familiar faces.
- Follow the schedule, but keep in mind that flexibility is key when working with young children.
- The main physical needs of the 0–24-month-olds include feeding, diaper changing, sleeping, rocking, holding, and playing. Use these times to show Jesus’ love by caring not only for their physical needs but also for their spiritual and emotional needs. Sing, share simple Scripture verses (let them see your Bible and how precious it is to you!), talk about God, pray, and use simple words. Show them love through your voice, smile, and laughter.
- Vary the experiences throughout the day by having both indoor and outdoor times.
- Ask permission to apply sunscreen to 1–4-year-olds. (Babies should not wear sunscreen.) Do not stay outside too long at one time.
- Clean the rooms, including the toys, each day. Wash laundry as necessary.

After VBS

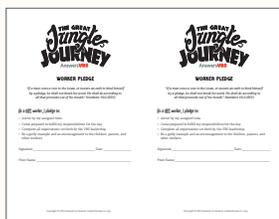
- Return outdoor play items to those who donated them for the week.
- Do a thorough cleaning and reorganizing of the rooms so they are ready for the next church activities.

Child Safety Precautions

Keeping children safe during VBS is an important responsibility of all VBS workers, requiring both prayerful and practical steps. Begin with prayer, praying before and during VBS for God's protection over each child, worker, and visitor. Pray for the smooth running of the facility as well. Prayer is a critically important step in your safety plan which should not be taken for granted!

Next, take practical steps by checking your church's child safety policies and communicating them to your VBS staff. If your church does not have any policies in place, prayerfully consider adopting sensible, wise procedures for the children's sake. Use the following examples to spark your thinking on what precautions to take regarding children's safety.

- Before allowing anyone to work with children, make sure you know them well and trust them. Do not allow new church attendees or others you do not know well to work with children. Check with your church on its policy regarding background checks on children's ministry workers and make sure all VBS workers are screened and interviewed and have had reference checks before assigning them a job.
- In addition to filling out the registration form, volunteers should also be required to sign a **VBS worker pledge** agreeing to abide by the policies and procedures of your church. See the Resource Download for a sample.
- Thoroughly check all areas for cleanliness and safety daily before VBS begins. Remove hazardous or toxic items, cover outlets, put away heavy or dangerous objects, tape down cords, and make sure everything is in good working order. Check both inside and outside the facility.
- Children should be signed in and out of VBS by their caregivers, following your church's check-in/check-out



procedures. Release the children only to authorized individuals.

- Always have at least two unrelated adults (18 and above) with children, including trips to the bathroom. Children must be well supervised at all times and never be left alone with just one adult or teen.
- Always pair responsible teens with adults.
- Count children every time you move to a different station.
- Enlist qualified members of the church with medical experience to be at the facility during VBS hours. Outline a procedure to quickly find and alert them of any situation needing attention. Make sure an accident report is filled out after any incident.
- Be aware of which children have which allergies and make sure precautions are taken to protect them.
- Keep ice packs in the freezer for minor bumps.
- Keep adequate first-aid kits in safe and handy spots around the facility and make sure the VBS staffers are aware of their locations. Volunteers can give out adhesive bandages or ice packs, but anything more major should be handled by trained personnel or 911 calls.
- Enlist volunteers to form a security team to monitor the premises during VBS.
- Find out what precautions your church's insurance carrier recommends.
- Consider these additional precautions:
 - » Men should not change diapers.
 - » Do not allow children to sit in leaders' laps.
 - » Do not give piggyback rides.
 - » Do not give front hugs. Offer side hugs, high fives, and fist bumps instead.
 - » Do not take or post photos on social media of others' kids without written parental permission.
 - » Provide a police officer on-site during VBS hours.
- Continue to implement precautions for your situation, asking God to keep you alert and wise regarding these issues.

RECRUITMENT

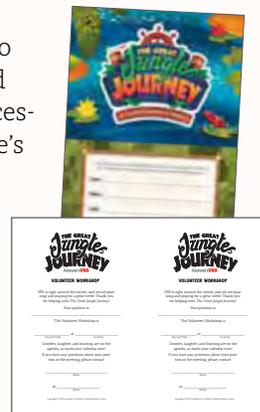
ASSEMBLE YOUR CREW

Why should busy people volunteer to help at VBS? There's something in each of us that yearns to be useful for our Master (2 Timothy 2:21). Through VBS, God has given us that awesome privilege as we invest in an outreach that is one of the most effective and evangelistic ministries out there. It is estimated that more people have become Christians through VBS than through any other church event. So as you approach people about working at VBS, cast the vision of its importance and eternal impact. Help them feel needed and appreciated.

Listed on the following pages are the leadership areas for VBS with **general job descriptions**. Use these to help

identify where people may best fit into VBS. Keep in mind, however, that God can use any willing heart. It is not necessarily a person's qualifications but one's dedication that counts.

Use the Volunteer Recruitment Flyer (12-1-025) and the Volunteer **Registration Form** to recruit and sign up your VBS volunteers.



Where Do My Teens Fit In?

Why, into your VBS program, of course! Teenagers provide a great way to round out your staffing needs. They're energetic and fun. Choose teens who have demonstrated a godly lifestyle and the ability to handle responsibility well. Make sure you clearly explain what you expect from them and then encourage them in their roles. The sky's the limit when it comes to incorporating your teens, but the following suggestions provide a starting point.

Drama: The teens in our test churches can't wait for the next VBS so they can act in the live daily drama. One of our test

churches even had to hold tryouts for their drama because so many of their teens wanted to be involved!

Song Leaders: Use your youth group choir or band to lead the song motions during the opening and closing assemblies.

Group Guides: Teens enjoy interacting with the younger kids as they lead them from site to site. A side benefit is they are learning right along with the kids.

Assistants: Your craft, game, and snack areas will need helpers. Let your teens participate in the area they're most interested in.

Job Descriptions

Director/Assistant Director

Best fit for this job: Someone who possesses vision, organization and people skills, and a heart for children.

- Oversees the entire VBS (read through the *Director Guide* and other manuals for further information)
- Works with the church staff on VBS-related issues, such as goals, dates, and budget
- Recruits, organizes, and oversees the entire VBS staff
- Plans and facilitates the Cool Contests
- Runs training workshops
- Coordinates the Closing Program
- Establishes effective follow-up
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS



Administrative Coordinator

Best fit for this job: Someone who is organized and enjoys working with people.

- Oversees administrative tasks of VBS (read through the *Director Guide* and other manuals for further information)
- May oversee others who help with administrative tasks
- Recruits and places volunteers
- Organizes and runs the registration of children
- Assists the director with tasks, such as setting VBS dates, designing customized schedules, assigning rooms, and ordering supplies
- May help with administrative tasks, such as typing, copying, and preparing mailings
- Keeps records during the week of VBS
- Organizes and evaluates information after VBS
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS



Prayer Coordinator

Best fit for this job: Someone who has a heart for prayer and for organizing others to pray.

- Plans all prayer-related activities involved in VBS (see page 23 for further information)
- Helps execute prayer activities
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS

Craft and/or Science Coordinator

Best fit for this job: Someone who is organized and enjoys planning, preparing, and executing craft and/or science ideas. This may be one person's job, or you may want to split it into two, with a craft coordinator and a science coordinator.

- Plans crafts and/or science experiments for all age levels (see *Tree-mendous Science and Crafts Guide* for further information)
- May oversee others who help with crafts and/or science experiments
- Organizes craft and/or science experiment donation sign-ups for church family
- Buys all extra supplies that have not been donated
- Enlists help and prepares necessary craft supplies and/or science experiments ahead of time so everything is organized into daily packets for the children
- Presents the crafts and/or science experiments during VBS or oversees others who present them
- Decides whether missions, music, or memory verse ideas will be implemented during this time and plans and prepares as necessary
- Oversees the setup and cleanup of the craft and/or science experiment area(s) each day
- Makes sure key lesson themes are reinforced through the Science and Crafts experiments
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS



Publicity Coordinator

Best fit for this job: Someone who is organized and energetic.

- Plans publicity campaign (see Promotion section for further information)
- Plans ways to build excitement for VBS within the church family
- Plans ways to promote VBS to the community
- Enlists others to help with publicizing VBS
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS

Snack Coordinator

Best fit for this job: Someone who is organized and enjoys working with food.

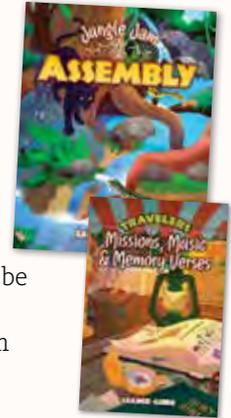


- Plans snacks for all age levels (see *Canopy Café Snack Guide* for further information)
- May oversee others helping with snacks
- Organizes snack donation sign-up for the church family
- Buys all extra supplies that have not been donated
- Prepares daily snacks for VBS and/or oversees others who are helping with snacks
- Monitors which children have allergies, plans accordingly (after discussion with parents), and notifies the appropriate group guides and helpers
- Coordinates the serving of snacks each day
- Oversees cleaning up the snack area(s) daily
- Makes sure key lesson themes are reinforced through the snacks
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS

Music Coordinator

Best fit for this job: Someone who is enthusiastic and enjoys singing with children.

- Learns all music and motions for the songs (see *Assembly Guide* and Music Download for further information)
- Helps plan and run the daily assemblies, including enthusiastically leading music
- Trains others to learn songs and motions ahead of time so they can also be up front helping to lead music
- Helps plan and run the Closing Program
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS



Game Coordinator

Best fit for this job: Someone who enjoys planning and running recreational games for children.

- Plans games for all age levels (see *Rainforest Recreation Guide* for further information)
- Gathers game supplies ahead of time
- Sets up games daily during VBS
- Runs game time and/or oversees others who are running game time
- Oversees cleaning up the game area(s) each day
- Makes sure key lesson themes are reinforced through the games
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS



Drama Director

Best fit for this job: Someone who has experience with drama.

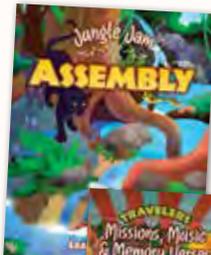
- Chooses actors for the drama and prepares folders for each with copies of the drama (see *Assembly Guide* for further information)
- Organizes a rehearsal schedule
- Runs the drama practices and oversees all aspects of the production (lighting, sound, costumes, props, etc.)
- Oversees the actual production of the dramas during the week of VBS
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS



Missions Coordinator

Best fit for this job: Someone who has a heart for missions and wants to see children get excited about missions.

- Arranges all details related to presenting the mission project during VBS week (see *Assembly Guide* and *Travelers' Missions, Music & Memory Verses Guide* for further information)
- May act as the presenter of the mission information the week of VBS
- Takes care of delivering mission collection to the appropriate parties after VBS is over
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS



Decorating Coordinator

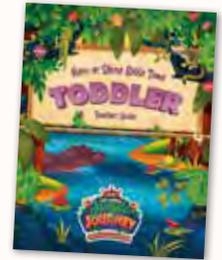
Best fit for this job: Someone who has creative ideas and enjoys decorating.

- Plans the decorations for all areas of the facility to make the space appealing (see *Decorating Decisions* for further information)
- Organizes decorating supplies and oversees a group to set up before VBS
- Organizes and oversees a group to take down the decorations after VBS is over
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS

Nursery Coordinator

Best fit for this job: Someone who is organized and enjoys planning, preparing, and executing ideas for children ages 0 to 3 or 4 years.

- Plans and prepares lessons, schedules, and all other details of the nursery portion of VBS (see *Toddler Teacher Guide* for further information)
- Determines the number of nursery-age children who will need care
- Trains volunteers who have agreed to work in this area
- Oversees the nursery area during the week of VBS
- Makes sure key lesson themes are reinforced through all the activities
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS



Photographer

Best fit for this job: Someone who is knowledgeable about photography, enjoys taking pictures, and enjoys children.

- Takes pictures of preparations that are occurring before VBS
- Ensures photo releases from parents have been secured and is informed of which children may not be photographed
- Takes numerous pictures during VBS week
- Takes individual pictures or class pictures of children
- Takes a group shot of entire VBS
- Develops and organizes photos after VBS for all to enjoy
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS

Group Guides

Best fit for this job: Someone who enjoys building relationships with groups of children.

- Checks the children in and out each day
- Leads them from rotation to rotation throughout the VBS day, actively participating and helping as needed
- Makes sure all children in the group are accounted and cared for and are enjoying VBS
- Sends home important flyers, crafts, and other items from each day's VBS
- Writes a follow-up postcard to each child after VBS
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS

River Guides (Teachers)

Best fit for this job: Someone who enjoys teaching children.

- Plans and prepares daily lessons for VBS (see *Junior Teacher Guide*, *Primary Teacher Guide*, *Pre-Primary Teacher Guide*, or *Toddler Teacher Guide* for further information)
- Enthusiastically engages in delivery of the lessons during the week of VBS
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS



A/V Coordinator

Best fit for this job: Someone with a knowledge of sound, lighting, and visual displays.

- Organizes and runs all the A/V components of VBS (see *Assembly Guide* for further information)
- Sets up microphones, video presentations, and stage effects
- Prays over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS



Assistants

The assistant position is not a leadership position but is critically important because the majority of your VBS volunteers will fall into this category. Assistants are the hands and feet of VBS. They work under the designated leader of each area, helping and assisting in whatever way they can.

Depending on the size of your VBS, one or more assistants are needed in each of the following areas:

- Administrative Assistants
- Craft/Science Assistants
- Snack Assistants
- Game Assistants
- Actors
- Nursery Assistants
- Group Guide Assistants

Depending on the size of your VBS, one or more assistants may be needed in these areas:

- Prayer Assistants
- Publicity Assistants
- Music Assistants
- Drama Assistants
- Missions Assistants
- A/V Assistants
- Decorating Assistants
- Photo Assistants
- Teaching Assistants

Training Workshops

Think back to your high school days. Do you remember those all-school pep rallies? They were designed to get everyone excited, cheering, and supporting the hometown team.

Think of your VBS training workshops as pep rallies. These are times to rally the crew and get everyone excited and enthused for the upcoming VBS. After all, VBS should be *fun*—fun with a purpose!

The training workshops are also designed to prepare your VBS crew for the task God has given them. Some of your crew will be experienced VBSers. Others will be new. Whatever the case, everyone needs to hear the assignment God has given your church or organization and learn the specifics of how to accomplish that assignment.

You'll want to host three workshops.

1. **Teacher Workshop:** This will provide your teachers (River Guides) with the opportunity to review their teaching material.
2. **Volunteer Workshop:** This will provide the opportunity to share pertinent information with everyone on your staff (except the teachers). Your volunteers will also be able to check out the various rotation sites they will be helping with (crafts, games, snacks, etc.).
3. **Gospel Workshop:** This will provide the opportunity to teach your entire staff how to present the gospel simply and effectively to children and how to follow up with children who have questions or have indicated they made a decision to follow Christ.

The following outlines how to host successful training workshops. Tailor the ideas for your particular staff and situation.

Workshop Preparation

- Meet with the leadership team to brainstorm and prepare for your training workshops. All members of the leadership team need to attend the Volunteer Workshop since they may be running a small portion of the meeting.
- Set dates for the workshops and place them on the church's master calendar. You may want to repeat the workshops so people have optional dates or consider videotaping them.
- Notify the correct people for the correct meeting in advance. See the Resource Download for **invitations**.
- Send a reminder a few days before the workshop.

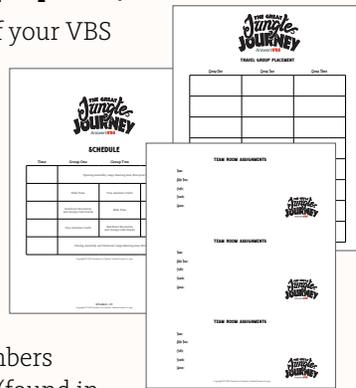


- Enlist volunteers to help with room setup, snack preparations, decorating, and other preparations for the day of the meeting. Check the ideas on the next page for thematic snack and decorating ideas.
- **Purchase the following:**
 - » *Helper Handbook* (12-1-007) for every member of the VBS crew
 - » Name tags (12-1-015 or 12-1-106) for everyone
 - » Pens (12-1-086), 1 per worker
 - » *How Can I Become a Child of God?* booklets (40-1-491) for the Gospel Workshop
 - » *Growing Up in God's Family* booklets (40-1-493) for the Gospel Workshop
 - » The appropriate number of teacher guides and Teacher Resource Kits for the Teacher Workshop
 - » Student guides for each age group (12-1-071, 12-1-072, 12-1-073, 12-1-074) for the Teacher Workshop
 - » Jungle Adventure Guides for each age group, 1 per child for the Teacher Workshop
 - » *Exploring God's Word* follow-up Bible Study (12-1-075), 1 per child for the Teacher Workshop
 - » Bookmarks (12-1-076, 12-1-077, 12-1-078), 1 per child for the Teacher Workshop
 - » Music for the Teacher Workshop
 - » Something to put each volunteer's paperwork and thematic goodies in or on (see Pinterest.com/answersvbs for ideas)
 - » Thematic goodies to give workers at each workshop (e.g., staff T-shirts, journals, thematic pens)



• **Copy and assemble the following for Teacher and Volunteer Workshops (1 set per person):**

- » Customized copies of your VBS **Daily Schedule**, **Team Placement**, and **Lesson Time Room Schedule**
- » VBS prayer request sheet
- » Map of facility with assigned areas marked
- » List of VBS crew members
- » Contest information (found in this guide)
- » Mission Project (*Assembly Guide*)
- » Miscellaneous information (e.g., dates and times of key VBS events, price of T-shirts, parking information, first-aid kit locations)
- » Items mentioned on the previous page (e.g., *Helper Handbook*, name tags, Teacher Resource Kits, student guides, follow-up Bible study, thematic goodies)



• **Copy and assemble the following for the Gospel Workshop (1 set per person):**

- » **Leading a Child to Christ**
- » **Decision Cards**
- » *How Can I Become a Child of God?* booklet
- » *Growing Up in God's Family* booklet



Tasty Training Treats

Have some tasty treats on hand to set the mood. Choose one or more ideas from the list below. Check Pinterest.com/answersvbs for photos.

- Canopy Café Snacks: Check out the snack guide and sample some thematic snacks the kids will be served the week of VBS. It's great for your VBS volunteers to get this preview of coming attractions!
- Tropical Tastes: Arrange a fruit tray or fruit kabobs with tropical fruits from the rainforest: pineapple, banana, mango, orange, guava, coconut, lemon, lime.
- A-Lotta-Choco-Latta: Chocolate originates from cocoa beans, also found in the rainforest, so have fun serving chocolate anything! You may want to have a chocolate bar, a chocolate fountain, or a chocolate fondue.
- Very Vanilla: Vanilla also comes from the jungle. How about vanilla ice cream with hot fudge sauce? Throw

in some banana slices and you've got scrumptious sundaes. Or how about vanilla wafers dipped in that chocolate fondue?

- No Monkeying Around! Monkey bread is a yummy snack! It's loaded with cinnamon, a popular rainforest spice. Check online for a recipe.
- Be a Nut—A Kola Nut! Kola nuts are from the rainforest and are used in making cola drinks.
- Water: Wrap water bottles with labels that say **Rain Water**.

Delightful Decorations

Decorate your area to get the group thinking about the jungle. Do a little or a whole lot—whatever suits your style.

- Cover tables with rainforest-themed tablecloths or tablecloths that represent the 7 colors—green, dark blue, gray, white, red, and yellow. Or use colors found in *The Great Jungle Journey* logo. For decorating helps, check YouTube.com/answersvbs or Pinterest.com/answersvbs.
- Liven up the room with vines, flowers, and other jungle-themed decorations.
- Place info packets on clipboards. Make individual clipboards by cutting a 4 x 8-ft. sheet of Coroplast into 9 x 12-in. pieces. Add a binder clip to the top of each. If you want to personalize the clipboards, run off color logos, cut them out, and glue them on each one. Place a rainforest-themed pen on each packet. To make, take the lid off a ballpoint pen and begin wrapping green masking tape from just above the tip of the pen upward. When you pass the halfway point, lay the stem of a fake leaf or flower against the barrel of the pen, lining it up so most of it extends beyond the end of the pen. Continue wrapping the tape until you reach the end of the barrel. Check Pinterest.com/answersvbs or YouTube.com/answersvbs for pictures of the tables with the clipboards, packets, and pens.
- Play the VBS music as the crew arrives.

Teacher Workshop and Volunteer Workshop (Part 1)

- Pray.
- Be organized and keep the meeting moving. You want people to leave excited and informed, not frustrated!
- Provide a short, uplifting devotional. You may want to involve your pastor in this.
- Encourage the VBS crew about the importance of VBS. The majority of those who receive Christ do so when they are between the ages of 4 and 14!
- Get your crew fired up about the theme. Wear something fun, such as your *Jungle Journey* T-shirt and hat.
- Encourage interaction and sharing using the Icebreaker Ball (11-7-159 or 11-8-159).
- Host a quiz show with questions from the trivia and the Bible and apologetics content the children will be

learning. (See teacher guides.) Give thematic candy or prizes to those who answer correctly.

- Play the promo video from the Resource Download. Share why you chose this particular VBS.
- Play “The Great Jungle Journey” theme song and learn it together.
- Discuss the information packet, including highlighting the info on the course overview. Ask everyone to commit to reading the information thoroughly before VBS.
- Explain how the Cool Contests will work.
- Host a Q&A time.
- Continue with Part 2 for the Teacher Workshop or Part 2 for the Volunteer Workshop.

Teacher Workshop (Part 2)

- Pass out the appropriate teacher guides and Teacher Resource Kits. Briefly review the material found in them.
- Show samples of the student guides for each age group. These can be given to students at the end of each teaching session as a way to review the lesson content, or group leaders can pass them out at the end of the day.
- Pass out the bookmarks and the follow-up Bible study, *Exploring God's Word*. Suggestions for when teachers or group leaders can give these out are found in the teacher guides.
- Preview the materials—particularly the teacher guides.
- To learn more about the content of this program, encourage your teachers and other volunteers to study the articles at AnswersVBS.com/junglefaq.
- Host a Q&A time, then end in prayer.



Volunteer Workshop (Part 2)

- Pass out the *Helper Handbook* and briefly talk through it.
- Introduce the leadership team (nursery, crafts, science, snacks, games, music, and drama coordinators).
- Have each coordinator take his group to where they will work during VBS and discuss the specifics of their assignment. The director can talk with the group leaders and helpers.
- Individual departments should schedule additional training sessions as necessary.
- Host a Q&A time for questions, then end in prayer.



Gospel Workshop

- Pray.
- Be organized and keep the meeting moving.
- Provide a short, uplifting devotional. You may want to involve your pastor in this.
- Remind the VBS crew that the majority of those who receive Christ do so when they are between the ages of 4 and 14! VBS matters!
- Show the *What Is the Gospel?* video found at YouTube.com/answersvbs.
- Pass out the Gospel Workshop information packets. Discuss the information.
- Note the info on the back inside cover of each teacher guide, which is a handy reference.
- Role-play a gospel presentation situation. Workers pair up and take turns being the adult and the child.
- Discuss the experience and answer questions. End in prayer.

PROMOTION

ANNOUNCE YOUR TREK

It's time to let everyone know about your VBS! After all, people won't come if they don't know, so pull out all the stops and inform your church and community about *the* place to be this summer!

Promotional Helps

Your Resource Download contains **clip art**, *The Great Jungle Journey* logo, and promotional helps. You'll also want to check out the *Resource Catalog*, which offers a range of promotional materials.



Use exciting and varied methods to share your message, making sure all promotional pieces include the following crucial information:

- VBS name
- Dates and times
- Location
- Ages
- Contact information

Remember to be creative and enthusiastic! Your methods will set the tone for VBS and get people excited and interested.

Add promotional events to the calendar you've already started. Print a separate copy of the calendar for your publicity coordinator.

File Formats

The clip art is provided in three formats in the Resource Download. Each format has a particular type of use. **PDF** files are vector files, which have transparent backgrounds and are scalable for shirt printing or to make large signs or banners. **PNG** files are a general image format that contain transparent backgrounds. They can be used for any print or web use but cannot be scaled up without resolution issues. **SVG** files are the simple vector formats required for Cricut machines.

The Great Jungle Journey Fonts

Answers VBS recommends the following freeware fonts for promoting *The Great Jungle Journey*: **Changa One** and **Courgette** from Google Fonts, **Jungle Land** and **HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT** from Dafont.

Also, **Suffolk**, **Juggler**, and **JUNGLE FEVER NF** are available for purchase from myfonts.com.

Templates

Many of the promotional items are set up for use with standard Avery templates (with one exception). In Microsoft Word, select "Labels" and choose "Avery" from label vendors. (Or download these free templates from the "Templates and Software" section of Avery.com.) For the doorknob hangers, choose "OnlineLabel" from the label vendors. Data merges in Word can be set to use the following label templates:

Postcards (12-1-026, 12-1-027, 12-1-028, 12-1-029, 12-1-030)	Avery 3263
Bulletin inserts (12-1-024)	Avery 3265 or 8316
Doorknob hangers (12-1-033)	OnlineLabel 245
Promo cards (12-1-031)	Avery 8376
Name tags (12-1-015)	Avery 74459

When using the templates, you will need to leave room for the preprinted art when populating the labels with your information. Print a test page on a separate sheet of paper to make sure the spacing is correct. We recommend using the Step-by-Step Mail Merge Wizard in Microsoft Word to walk you through setting up your items for print.

The name tags are vertical, so you will need to change the text direction on the template to print them correctly. That option is under the table layout menu in Word.

Promotion Calendar

Five Months Before

- Choose a publicity coordinator and give her a copy of this section of the *Director Guide*. She'll also need access to the *Resource Catalog* and Resource Download.

Four Months Before

- Meet with the publicity coordinator to organize the promotion plan. Review the various promotional helps and decide which you would like to use. (See the Resource Download and the *Resource Catalog*.) Purchase these materials or create your own.

Make sure to order your promotion pieces early and order more than you think you'll need. The earlier you order, the less stress you'll have!

(All VBS clip art is owned by Answers in Genesis. You have AiG's permission to use these images with your organization only.)

- Announce the date and time of this year's VBS to your congregation with an insert (12-1-024) in your church bulletin or newsletter.
- Send Save the Date postcards (12-1-026) to all church children and VBS attendees from last year.



Three Months Before

- Plan a fun announcement during church about *The Great Jungle Journey* (e.g., performing a skit, interviewing kids). Check the Resource Download for **promo scripts**. Or use the promotional video from the Resource Download. Reveal the theme, reiterate the date and time, and share recruiting needs.
- Pass out volunteer recruitment flyers (12-1-025) and begin recruiting workers (except for the leadership positions, which should already be in place). **Volunteer registration forms** are available on the Resource Download. Check the Resource Download for a fun **volunteer recruitment script**.
- Post a catchy advertisement on the church's website with pictures from last year's VBS.
- Make preparations to register children at myAnswers.com or with printed **registration forms**.



Digital Free gives you the ability to register children and volunteers online and comes with the purchase of a kit. Visit myAnswers.com to set up your account and upgrade to Digital Pro, which includes access to leader guides, all music options, and more.



Two Months Before

- Create an event on Facebook to let everyone on your friend list know you are having VBS. Have your church folks expand the reach by having them invite everyone on their friend list.
- You may also want to set up a Facebook page specifically for your VBS program that you can use to give updates. Or start a group on Facebook for your VBS.
- Use your church's website and blog to announce your VBS. Be sure to get permission from parents/caregivers before sharing photos or videos of children online.
- Begin registering children at your information counter and/or online.
- Ensure the information counter has the following:

- » **Child registration forms**
- » **Volunteer registration forms**
- » **Nursery registration forms**
- » Craft donation list
- » Science donation list
- » Snack donation list
- » Game donation list
- » Props donation list
- » Decoration donation list
- » Promotional materials, such as flyers or invitation postcards (see *Resource Catalog*)

- Place collection boxes for donated items at the information counter.
- Obtain permission to put theme posters (12-1-022, 12-1-023) around town.
- Put a catchy announcement on the church's answering service.
- Begin planning the pre-VBS outreach carnival. See page 67.



One Month Before

- Hang the banner (12-1-032) outside your church in a highly visible location.



To customize your banner, use a large permanent marker to clearly write your church's information on the banner or purchase large pre-cut or custom vinyl letters from a local craft, sign, or teacher store.

- Send **news releases** to local newspapers and radio stations, both Christian and secular.
- Mail VBS invitation postcards (12-1-027) to all church children, past VBS attendees, and other prospective children.
- Post an update on your VBS Facebook page if you set one up. Remind everyone about the upcoming carnival. Also, pass out **"You're Invited!" invitations** to the carnival.
- Enlist willing church members to put up yard signs (12-1-022, 12-1-023) in their front yards.
- Begin selling the VBS music CDs and T-shirts. Wear VBS T-shirts around town and to children's church events.



Two Weeks Before

- Use a puppet or a dramatic person in Sunday school to announce VBS and encourage children to register.
- Begin teaching the VBS songs.
- Host the pre-VBS carnival.
- Put another post on your VBS Facebook page.
- Organize a neighborhood publicity blitz.
 - » Make or purchase door hangers (12-1-033).
 - » Gather your church family for doughnuts, coffee, and juice on a Saturday morning (or whenever suits your schedule).
 - » Divide into groups and assign each a neighborhood to canvass with door hangers.



Sunday Before

- Dedicate the VBS during the church service prior to the beginning of VBS. Ask your pastor to encourage the workers and pray over everyone who will be helping during the upcoming week.

REGISTER ME FOR THE GREAT JUNGLE JOURNEY!

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Age _____
Registration Fee _____
Parent/Guardian Name _____
Parent/Guardian Phone _____
Parent/Guardian Email _____
Child's Birthdate _____
Child's Gender _____
Child's Allergies _____
Child's Special Needs _____
Child's Emergency Contact Name _____
Child's Emergency Contact Phone _____
Child's Emergency Contact Email _____

REGISTER ME FOR THE GREAT JUNGLE JOURNEY!

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Age _____
Registration Fee _____
Parent/Guardian Name _____
Parent/Guardian Phone _____
Parent/Guardian Email _____
Child's Birthdate _____
Child's Gender _____
Child's Allergies _____
Child's Special Needs _____
Child's Emergency Contact Name _____
Child's Emergency Contact Phone _____
Child's Emergency Contact Email _____

First Day of VBS

- Register children who are not yet registered.
- Be cheerful and welcoming to all.
- Consider having someone who will begin recording moments from VBS to share online. Once again, make sure you have permission from parents/caregivers before posting any pictures or videos of children online.
- Start a hashtag for your particular church to collect posts from VBSers or use a general one (#vbs2024 #greatjunglejourney) to connect with others around the country.

Begin to order resources in January, no matter when your VBS is held, in order to take advantage of better discounts and ensure item availability. Check the Resource Catalog for discount options.

Forest FunDay

You don't want your community to miss out on this awesome VBS, so get the word out by hosting your very own promo event called the Forest FunDay. This is a carnival-type event held two to three weeks before VBS so you can preregister children, build excitement, and spread the word throughout the community.

The Forest FunDay will be a good time filled with games, crafts, activities, and snacks. Admission is free. Invite the community by setting up an event page on Facebook and by mailing or handing out **"You're Invited!" invitations** to church attendees, friends, sports teams, clubs, and family.

For a list and description of suggested activities to offer at your carnival, check the following pages. (**Activities** are also on the Resource Download.)

Many of these suggestions can also be incorporated into VBS week or the closing program if not used prior to VBS.

Setup

- Decide if your event will be indoors or outdoors. If indoors, use a multipurpose room. If outdoors, choose a grassy area or a safe area of the church parking lot.
- Each activity should have its own space, a sign with its name, prize tickets, and a marker or stamp (12-1-093) to use on each child's master ticket.
- Use folding tables or large cardboard boxes for activities requiring a base. Drape each table with a colorful, thematic tablecloth, fabric, or sheet. Attach boards, PVC pipe, or long cardboard tubes to each side of the table. Stretch

a colorful sign made from roll paper between the two boards and add some colorful balloons.

- A simpler option is to use rope, cones, or sidewalk chalk to mark individual activity spaces.
- Choose a few of the decorating suggestions found in the decorating section. Keep it fun, colorful, and simple.
- Play VBS music.

Staffing

- Enlist at least one worker for each activity area. Church families may want to sign up to decorate, organize, and staff one activity each. This divides the workload into small, manageable pieces.
- Workers should dress in VBS T-shirts or jungle-themed clothing.
- Friendly, costumed greeters can welcome the arriving families.

Registration

- Set up the registration area near the entrance to your event. Warmly greet each arriving family.
- Check everyone in.
- Copy extra **carnival master tickets** on bright card stock. Cut apart. Give one to each child. This ticket enables children to participate in each activity once and will be marked or stamped at each location when it is completed.
- Sign up any unregistered children for VBS. (See **registration forms** on the Resource Download.)

Activities and Games

Note: Some of the games need a start line, finish line, or throwing line. These can be made from painter's tape, masking tape, rope, cones, or chalk.

Forest Flowers

SUPPLIES

- » Brightly colored tissue paper, cut into 8 x 8 inch squares, at least 6 per person
- » Green pipe cleaners, at least 1 per child
- » Child-safe scissors



DIRECTIONS

- » Stack six layers of tissue paper and fold accordion-style.
- » Trim the ends into semicircles.
- » Fold in half.
- » Use a stem (pipe cleaner) to cinch around the midpoint fold.
- » Gently separate the layers, pulling upward and downward, until you've formed a flower.
- » Players get 1 ticket after completing this activity.

Tutti-Frutti Tree

SUPPLIES

- » 3 buckets
- » Zip ties
- » Ladder
- » 3 pieces of play tropical fruit (real or fake)



DIRECTIONS

- » Ahead of time, hook buckets to different rungs of a ladder.
- » Players have three tries to throw the tropical fruits into the buckets. The higher the bucket, the more points a fruit is worth.
- » Give 1 ticket for a fruit that lands in the bottom bucket, 2 for the middle bucket, and 3 for the highest bucket.

FunDay Face Painting

SUPPLIES

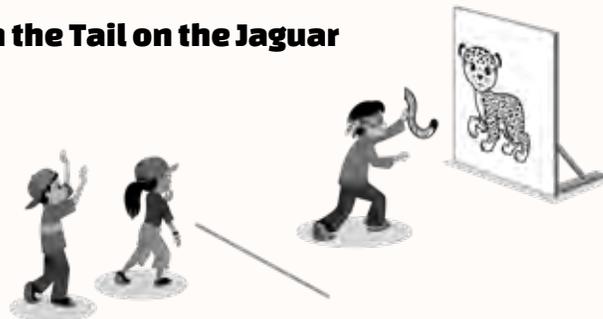
- » Face paints
- » Paintbrushes
- » Wet wipes
- » **Face Painting Reference Chart**



DIRECTIONS

- » Paint the kids' faces using images on the Face Painting Reference Chart.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity.

Pin the Tail on the Jaguar



SUPPLIES

- » **Jaguar Backdrop** (see Resource Download)
- » Jaguar tail cutouts
- » Tape or sticky tack
- » Blindfold

DIRECTIONS

- » This is played like Pin the Tail on the Donkey.
- » Ahead of time, put up the backdrop and put loops of tape or sticky tack on the jaguar tails.
- » Have at least two players play this each round.
- » One at a time, players are blindfolded, spun around, and sent off in the direction of the jaguar backdrop with a jaguar tail in their hand that they're trying to pin nearest to the jaguar's tail area.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity. Give 2 bonus tickets for the tail that is closest to the right spot.

Jungle Boat Photo Spot

SUPPLIES

- » **Photo spot backdrop**
- » Step stool for small children
- » Camera (smartphone can work)

DIRECTIONS

- » Make or buy (12-1-127) the photo spot and put it up. There are **clip art** images in the Resource Download you may want to use if making your own.
- » Children stand behind the backdrop and put their face through the hole. Photograph them and print the picture (either at the carnival or later) to give to them. You may want to have a spot during VBS where they can pick them up.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity.



Forest Fishing Hole

SUPPLIES

- » Fun foam fish
- » Paper clips
- » Fishing line
- » Magnets
- » Dowel rods
- » Small wading pool or large tub

DIRECTIONS

- » Write 1, 2, or 3 on each fish.
- » Attach 1 paper clip to each fish.
- » Tie the fishing line around one end of the dowel rod.
- » Attach a magnet to the other end of the fishing line.
- » Players “catch” a fish and receive the appropriate number of prize tickets, according to the number on the fish.



Jungle Scavengers



SUPPLIES

- » Writing utensil, 1 per team
- » Paper lunch bag for collecting items that begin with the letters in “rainforest” (see Resource Download for list), 1 per team
- » **Scavenger Hunt List**, 1 per team

DIRECTIONS

- » Collect the items on the list in the paper bag.
- » Give 1 prize ticket for each item found.

Tropical Drop

SUPPLIES

- » Large mason jar, pickle jar, or other large container with moderately narrow opening
- » Small plastic tropical animal figurines

DIRECTIONS

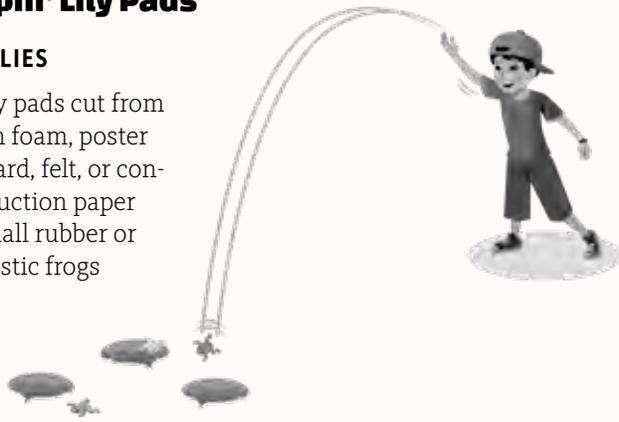
- » Players stand directly over the jar and have 3 tries to drop an animal figurine directly into the mouth of the jar.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity and an extra ticket for each successful drop.



Leapin' Lily Pads

SUPPLIES

- » Lily pads cut from fun foam, poster board, felt, or construction paper
- » Small rubber or plastic frogs



- » Permanent marker

DIRECTIONS

- » Write 1, 2, or 3 on each lily pad.
- » Scatter the pads on the ground.
- » Players get 3 turns to toss a frog onto the lily pads.
- » Total the points and receive that number of prize tickets.

Rainy Ring Toss

SUPPLIES

- » 3 2-liter bottles
- » Sand or rice
- » Jungle animal face cutouts
- » Tape
- » 3 rings



DIRECTIONS

- » Fill 3 2-liter bottles half full with sand or rice. Tape faces of jungle animals to the front of the bottles.
- » Players have 3 tries to toss the rings over the bottles.
- » Give 1 prize ticket for playing and an extra ticket for each successful toss.

Lemon Puckering Contest

SUPPLIES

- » Lemon wedges

DIRECTIONS

- » Attempt to suck on a lemon wedge without puckering.
- » Give 1 prize ticket for completing this activity. Receive a bonus ticket if the player didn't pucker.



Canopy Coloring Contest



SUPPLIES

- » Photocopies of the **Canopy Coloring Contest** page (see Resource Download), 1 per child
- » Crayons or markers

DIRECTIONS

- » Children color the picture. Collect the pictures and hang them somewhere during VBS week.
- » Announce winners during VBS week. If you have a lot of entries, you can have winners of various age categories. Return pictures to the children the last day of VBS.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity.

Duck Under the Branch Limbo



SUPPLIES

- » Broomstick or other long stick

DIRECTIONS

- » Two people hold the broomstick between them.
- » Players attempt to go under the broomstick as the holders lower it with each turn.
- » Give 1 ticket for each successful turn.

Your Nose Knows

SUPPLIES

- » Paper numbered 1-10
- » 10 paper lunch bags
- » Markers
- » Stapler
- » Vanilla
- » Chocolate
- » Orange
- » Banana
- » Pineapple
- » Cinnamon
- » Tomato
- » Coconut
- » Nutmeg
- » Corn



DIRECTIONS

- » Put a little of each item in a bag, staple shut, and poke a few small holes in each bag. (If the item is messy, put inside a baggie, but leave the baggie open, then put that inside the lunch bag.
- » Players try to guess what's in each bag using just their sense of smell (not sight), writing their guesses on their numbered papers.
- » Give 1 ticket for each correct answer.

Soak You in a Canoe



SUPPLIES

- » Canoe
- » Bucket filled with water
- » Sponges
- » 1 willing volunteer

DIRECTIONS

- » Try to hit the person sitting in the canoe with the sponges.
- » Earn 1 prize ticket if you hit him.
- » Note: If you are doing this during or after VBS, the stars of the drama make great targets!

Coconut Bowling



SUPPLIES

- » Coconut "bowling ball"
- » 10 bowling pins or water bottles

DIRECTIONS

- » Set up the pins in a pyramid shape like a bowling alley.
- » Players roll the coconut down the "lane" to the pins and see how many they knock over.
- » Give 2 tries per player.
- » Give 1 ticket for each pin that gets knocked over.

Topple the Pineapple



SUPPLIES

- » 3 plastic or real pineapples
- » 3 beanbags or balls
- » Table, box, or crate

DIRECTIONS

- » Place three pineapples on the elevated surface. Try this ahead of time to make sure your beanbags are heavy enough to knock over the pineapples. If not, switch to balls.
- » Players stand at the start line and have 3 tries to knock the pineapples over using a beanbag.
- » Give 1 prize ticket for each pineapple that is knocked over.

Tropical Fruit Figuring

SUPPLIES

- » Fruit snacks that look like tropical fruits (enough to fill a jar)
- » Jar with lid
- » Bowl to hold guess papers
- » Small pieces of paper (1 per player)
- » Markers



DIRECTIONS

- » Players write how many fruit snacks they think are in the jar on their paper.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity.
- » Announce the winner of this contest at the end of the carnival or on the first day of VBS. The winner gets the jar of fruit snacks.

Cruise Souvenirs

- » Set up an area called Cruise Souvenirs with various prizes worth a various number of tickets. Children turn in their tickets to receive prizes. Check Oriental Trading Company or Rhode Island Novelty for inexpensive prize possibilities. The following are some possible suggestions: rainforest animal pencil wrap erasers; rainforest friends finger puppets; rainforest TOOB animals; stretchable flying monkeys or frogs; neon monkey bendables; stuffed animal or plastic monkeys, frogs, bears, tigers, snakes, sloths, flamingos; mini umbrella hats; tropical bird gliders; tropical stick pens; tropical bird sticker sheets; sloth bendables; watch it grow sloth water toy; sequin butterfly masks; sticky snakes; fruit mochi squishies; candy such as gummy bears, frogs, or snakes; chocolate or vanilla anything (chocolate and vanilla originate in the rainforest).
- » Another option is to give prizes at each location. If this option is chosen, children will need bags of some kind to keep their prizes in as they move from activity to activity.



FunDay Food Booth

Set up the FunDay Food Booth area and choose one or more fun snacks from the suggestions listed below. Make signs that announce the name of each snack.

Note: There are also lots of additional great ideas in the *Snack Guide* and the Training Workshop section of this guide. You may want to make some of the snacks you will be serving during VBS week. Check out the snack guide!

FUNDAY SUNDAES (OR BUILD YOUR OWN BANANA SPLITS)

- » Vanilla and chocolate come from the rainforest, so serve vanilla ice cream (originating from vanilla beans) with a chocolate-inspired toppings bar (chocolate originating from the cacao beans), complete with hot fudge, chocolate syrup, crushed Oreos, and chocolate chips. Throw in some banana slices, shredded coconut, and tropical fruit-flavored candies for added fun.

CREATION CUPCAKES

- » Serve cupcakes that are decorated with assorted creation symbols such as the sun, moon, stars, sea, land, sky, plants, fish, birds, and animals.

RAINFOREST CRUNCHIES

- » Serve bags of salty snacks and call them twigs and branches (pretzels), tiger tails (Cheetos), and bird beaks (Pringles).

TIGER CUTIES

- » Draw a face, ears, and a few stripes on the outside of some clementine oranges and serve as a healthy, delicious treat!

BANANA PUDDING CUPS

- » Make individual banana puddings using 7- or 9-ounce disposable cups.

CANOPY COOKOUT

- » Grill hamburgers and hotdogs and call them monkey meat.

DRINKS

- » Serve drinks of your choice and call them Jungle Juice.
- » Water: Wrap water bottles with labels that say **Rain Water**.

Additional Ideas

- » Rainforest Animal Piñatas—Buy fun and colorful rainforest animals and try a whack (at a safe distance!) at a rainforest piñata.
- » Jungle Balloon Animals—Try making some jungle balloon creations, such as a snake or a flower. Look online for ideas.
- » Thematic Costumed Greeters—Use your drama team or others to greet and interact with the kids while dressed in fun costumes like a banana, a parrot, or a tiger.

PROCEDURE

MAN YOUR STATIONS

Are you ready? Are you set? The big moment has arrived, and VBS is about to begin. Here's a daily itinerary to help you organize the flow of your VBS day.

Arrival and Registration

Arriving at VBS

- Clearly mark the parking lot to keep traffic away from the main entry areas.
- Require caretakers to park and walk children in each day so children will be supervised in the parking lot.
- Station costumed greeters to welcome the children.
- Clearly mark registration areas so parents know where to go.

Registration

- Divide the registration area into two sections: one for preregistered children and one for walk-ins.

Preregistration Area

- Post lists of group names and children assigned to each group.
- Locate group signs around the entry room, spacing them so there is a bit of distance between them.
- Caretakers and children find their group sign and join the group to which they've been assigned.
- The group guide warmly greets each child, signs him in, and gives him a name tag and an **attendance chart**. Each child can receive a Jungle Adventure Journal (12-1-090, 12-1-091). The group guide or child can stamp it every day (12-1-093), or it can be stamped by the teacher after the Bible lesson.
- The caretaker signs his name, child's name, and the arrival time on the **team roster**.



- The caretaker lists who the pickup person will be on the team roster.
- The group guide provides the caretaker with a **Caretaker Handbook**.
- If your church uses electronic check-in, follow your procedures for that.

Walk-In Registration Area

- This area will need more helpers the first day.
- Warmly greet each child.
- Assign each child to a group.
- Caretakers and children find the group to which they've been assigned.
- The group guide warmly greets each child, signs him in, and gives him a name tag and a **team roster**. Each child can receive a Jungle Adventure Journal (12-1-090, 12-1-091). The group guide or child can stamp it (12-1-093) every day upon arrival, which is when our test churches do it, or it can be stamped by the teacher after the Bible lesson.
- Caretakers sign their name, child's name, and the arrival time on the **team roster**. They also fill out a **registration form** for each child.
- The group guide asks who the pickup person will be and marks it on the roster. He then gives each caretaker a **Caretaker Handbook**.
- The group guide turns in registration forms to the administrative team.
- If your church uses electronic check-in, follow your procedures for that.

After Registration

- Teen helpers escort the child to the group's seating area in the opening assembly. Each group's area should be clearly marked with a sign.

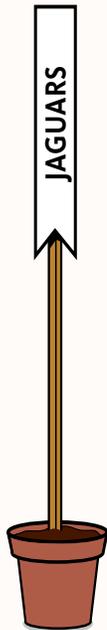
- While waiting for the opening assembly to begin, group guides can follow the suggestions given in the **Leader Responsibilities** handout, which includes the following ideas:

- » Practice and recite memory verses.
- » Have children update their attendance charts.
- » Quietly practice cheers together.
- » Color or work on activity sheets.
- » Share trivia or jokes found in the *Helper Handbook*.
- » Get to know each other with conversation starters, such as the following:

Would you like to visit a jungle some day?

What's one animal you'd want to see if you went to a rainforest? What's one you wouldn't want to see?

Would you rather sleep in a hammock at the top of the trees or in a shelter on the ground?



What do you think the scariest thing about a jungle would be?

Would you rather play in the rain or in the sunshine?

- » Play a quick game like the following:

Trip to the Jungle: The first person says he's going on a trip to the jungle and he's going to take ___. He fills in the blank with something that starts with the letter A. The next person repeats that sentence and adds something that starts with the letter B. Continue on, adding letters with each new person.

Add to the Story: The first child says four words to get it started—once upon a time. The next child adds four more words, the next child after that adds four more words, and so on.

Rock, Paper, Scissors: Play this fun game in pairs. Check online for directions.

I Spy: Play I Spy, picking jungle-themed objects around the room as the item to spy.

Jungle Jam Assembly—Opening

(10–20 minutes)

Start each day with the high-energy opening assembly. The details are in the *Assembly Guide*; the following is a quick overview.

- **Welcome:** The day starts with a quick, fun welcome.
- **Music:** Generate excitement and energy through this kid-friendly music. Plan to sing 2–3 songs in the opening. Memory verse songs are also available (memory verses set to memorable music).

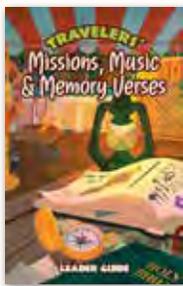


- **Mission Moment:** Introduce the mission project and hear daily updates on giving totals. This year, we're partnering with Children's Hunger Fund to provide meals to hungry children around the world!
- **Prayer:** Pray for the day.
- **Announcements and Dismissal:** Make announcements and send the children off to begin their rotations. Play the VBS music as they leave.

Note: Depending on the time you allotted for your opening and closing, you may want to do the Creature Feature (see *Assembly Guide*) in your opening instead of your closing.

Mission Moment

The mission emphasis to your VBS program provides an amazing opportunity for children to participate in giving to ministries that share the gospel. Figure out when you want to feature the Mission Moment—either during the assembly time or during one of the rotations. The *Travelers' Missions, Music & Memory Verses Guide* has additional activities.



This year, we've partnered with Children's Hunger Fund to provide food and the hope of the gospel to hungry children in the US and across the globe. The Good News Cruise is a fun and meaningful addition to your VBS program, teaching kids about poverty around the world and empowering them to make a difference.

THE GOOD NEWS CRUISE

Your kids will explore five different countries and learn how they can make a difference for children living in poverty around the world.

As your students explore Ukraine, Thailand, Mexico, Zambia, and the US, they'll hear the stories of boys and girls whose lives have been impacted by poverty. These children have no guarantee of meals, shelter, or an education. They need help. And they need the hope that only comes from salvation in Jesus Christ.

The good news is you and your kids have the power to make a difference!

The Bible says that giving generously to the poor is really giving generously to God himself (Proverbs 19:17). Teach your VBS class the great joy that comes from sacrificing for the sake of Jesus and his gospel.

Setting Off!

During the Mission Moment, your group will meet Frankie, an energetic and accident-prone deckhand on The Good News Cruise. Frankie has worked a variety of jobs on ships all around the world, and he's met some amazing people with incredible stories. As he takes on different jobs on this week's cruise, he'll share stories of people he's met on his travels.

Your mission is to collect coins to fill Children's Hunger Fund Coin Paks and help provide meals for children in need, just like the ones Frankie introduces throughout the week.

When your VBS children earn coins for their Coin Paks, they make it possible for Children's Hunger Fund to fill Food Paks. A Children's Hunger Fund Food Pak is a box of nutritious food that can meet a family's need for food. In a Food Pak, just 25 cents can send one meal!

The Food Paks are provided to partner churches in the US and around the world who deliver them to homes of families in need. Along with food delivery, relationships are built and the gospel is shared.

Resources

The following items are available to download from AnswersVBS.com/jungleresources.

- **Daily videos**
- **Daily scripts** and **activities**
- **Child profile slides**—daily profiles of the children your VBS students will meet
- Printable **Prayer Journals**, featuring true stories about hungry children living in poverty and prayer prompts that will help your kids connect with the needs of suffering children
- Printable **Map of the World activity sheet**, featuring locations of the children from the daily videos
- Printable and digital **banner artwork**
- **PowerPoint images** to help your kids track their fund-raising progress
- Printable fold-up **Coin Pak bank** for collecting coins
- **Donation Submission Form** to accompany your donation to CHF at the end of your VBS program

Purchasing Items

Included in your Starter Kit is a sample of the sturdy, pop-up Coin Pak bank made for your kids to use as they collect quarters for meals. After VBS, these will be fun souvenirs that can be kept as reminders to always care for the needs of others. Coin Paks are available for purchase from Children's Hunger Fund.

To order, please visit ChildrensHungerFund.org/answersvbs. To place an order over the phone, call Children's Hunger Fund at (800) 708-7589.



For questions regarding your Mission Moment resources, please call (800) 708-7589 or email vbs@childrenshungerfund.org.

Orders must be received 14 days prior to your VBS date. Available while supplies last.

Collecting Donations

Give children their own Coin Pak bank for collecting donations. Set up a fun area for kids to deposit their money each day as they begin VBS. Encourage your kids in the weeks leading up to VBS to save their money and then begin collecting the first day. Or plan on passing out the Coin Paks on Day 1 and begin collecting on Day 2.

Once you've totaled your donations, please make out a check to Children's Hunger Fund and indicate "The Good News Cruise" in the memo area to ensure proper recognition and fill out the **Donation Submission Form**. Send your check with the Donation Submission Form (on the Resource Download or online) to:

Children's Hunger Fund

Attn: Good News Cruise

DEPT LA 24373

Pasadena, CA 91185-4373

Learn more about the gospel-centered mercy ministry of Children's Hunger Fund at ChildrensHungerFund.org.

Tracking Your Progress

To help your kids maintain their excitement, announce how many meals they provided each day. Decide when to do this—either during this time or during the opening or closing assembly time.

Here are fun ways to help your kids see their progress as they fundraise.

1. Show your progress with **Daily Count PowerPoint slides**, found in the mission downloads. Update the slides with the total number of meals raised each day.
2. Make your own goal tracker and update it throughout the week. Create or print an empty thermometer and put five equally spaced marks on it. Each day, fill in the thermometer up to the next mark and write the total number of meals raised so far on the corresponding line.
3. Consider having a contest between boys and girls, or between teams, to see which group can bring in the most money. (Printable "teams" and "daily count" artwork are in the Resource Download.)

Counting Coins: It may be helpful to recruit two or three adult volunteers to count and/or roll the coins at the end of each day. Some banks provide coin counting services, but they may require several days to do so. Check ahead with your local bank.

Daily Summaries

Day 1: Meet Nadya from Ukraine

WHERE: Today, we will meet a little girl named Nadya from Ukraine, a country in Eastern Europe. A few years ago, Ukraine was attacked by a neighboring country. Millions of Ukrainians fled their homes in search of safety. Refugees from Ukraine scattered throughout many other countries in Europe and beyond.

WHO: Nadya's whole life changed the day her town was attacked. Buildings were destroyed, and there were soldiers in the streets. Nadya and her family were able to stay safe in their basement until they had an opportunity to leave their town. They traveled for several days until they reached safety. Nadya's family couldn't take much with them when they left. They came to a church that offered them a place to sleep and gave them food to eat. The people at the church took care of Nadya and her family and shared with them about Jesus. They brought hope to Nadya at a time when everything felt hopeless.



Day 2: Meet Panit from Thailand

WHERE: Thailand is a country in southern Asia. Close to half the population of Thailand lives in rural villages. Many people in these villages don't have opportunities to go to school or learn skills, and employment opportunities are limited. The restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic made it even more difficult to find work.

WHO: Panit lives with his grandmother and his siblings in a small village in Thailand. Before the pandemic, his grandmother had fairly regular work washing clothes for families in the community. During the lockdown, however, people stopped hiring Panit's grandmother to wash their clothes. When they heard about a food distribution nearby, Panit's grandmother went to get food. The people running the food distribution were from a local church and asked about the family's situation. They started visiting Panit and his family at their home and shared with them about the hope of Jesus. The church cared for them at a time when others were shutting their doors.



Day 3: Meet Daniel from Mexico

WHERE: Today, we're going to meet a little boy who lives in Mexico. Following the pandemic, poverty in Mexico grew to include almost half the population. More than 20 million children in Mexico are living in poverty. Between inadequate nutrition and a lack of education, these children face tremendous challenges for their futures.



WHO: Daniel and his mother live with his aunt and two cousins in Mexico City. They came to Mexico from Haiti to escape violence and in hopes of having better work opportunities. Unfortunately, work was not so easy to find. Daniel's mother has very little education, and she is unable to get a good-paying job. Daniel is too young to go to school, but the schools in his neighborhood are lacking in many resources. The people who knocked on their door with a box of food offered more than just food to Daniel's family. They also shared with Daniel about the love of Jesus Christ. The people from the church showed Daniel's family that there was so much more that they needed than just food. They were welcomed into a church community that truly cared about them.

Day 4: Meet Layla from Zambia

WHERE: Zambia is a country in southern Africa. Currently, over 60% of the population live in extreme poverty, meaning they live on less than \$2.15 per day. Many of these families live hand-to-mouth, meaning they purchase food with the money they earned that day. If they don't earn an income that day, there is no food to eat.



WHO: Layla and her twin brother are the youngest of five children. With so many mouths to feed, Layla's mother often cannot make enough money to afford food as well as pay the rent for their home and their school fees. When she cannot afford them all, there are days Layla goes to bed hungry. When someone from the local church came to their home with food for them to eat, it was a surprise to Layla's family. They didn't ask for anything in exchange for the food, and they didn't just come once! Someone from the church came to their home every month with food. They stayed and talked with the family and shared with them about God's love for them.

Day 5: Meet Marissa from the United States

WHERE: Today, we're going to meet someone who lives right here in the United States. Did you know that over 11 million children in the United States live without necessities like food, shelter, and healthcare? But while poverty can be easy to identify in some of the other stories you've heard, it isn't always easy to spot.



WHO: Marissa and her brothers live in an apartment. She goes to school with other children her age. Like most children, Marissa has dreams for what she wants to be when she is older. But Marissa has obstacles in her way. During the school year, Marissa and her brothers receive free meals from the school. Summertime, however, brings hunger, as those meals are no longer available once school lets out and Marissa's mother cannot afford to buy additional food. A local church learned of their situation and knocked on Marissa's door with a box of food. In addition to meeting their physical need for food, the people from the church showed that they truly cared about them. They prayed with Marissa's family and invited them to church. They didn't just come once, either. The church visited every few weeks with more food. Marissa was able to learn that God loves her and sent his Son to save her.

(Be sensitive to those children who may receive free or reduced meals at school. Consider how to best phrase this script for your particular area.)

Swinging Songs

Kids love to sing, and kids love song motions. That's why we do both at *The Great Jungle Journey*, where the music features fun songs that reinforce the spiritual theme. We have provided a variety of songs to go along with each day's teaching; however, feel free to choose the songs that work best for your children. You can use all of the songs throughout the week or just choose a few to repeat every day. You may also want to begin teaching the songs to your children a few weeks before VBS begins. Use your Sunday school, children's church, or Wednesday evening programs

to familiarize them with the VBS music. Hand out CDs of the music or encourage parents to download the audio files from AnswersBookstore.com and play them for the children in the car and at home.

Note: Original purchasers of these music products are given limited permission to copy up to 25% of the total number of copies needed of them. Visit AnswersBookstore.com for more licensing options.



Music Leader Downloads

Included with each Super Starter Kit is a Music Leader Download link, which provides all components of both contemporary and traditional music. The Music Download contains MP4 files of hand-motion videos and song lyric videos, as well as MP3s of the music in stereo, split, and instrumental versions. Presentation images and printable song lyrics are also included.

Contemporary Songs

- Theme Song: "Jungle Jam" (2:51)
- Day 1 Song: "The Manatee Song" (2:16)
- Day 2 Song: "No One Does Good" (2:49)
- Day 3 Song: "Jesus Is My Light" (2:57)
- Day 4 Song: "You Made a Way" (2:59)
- Day 5 Song: "Peace, Love, Joy" (3:01)
- Any Day Song: "7 C's of History" (2:51)
- Any Day Song: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (2:47)

Traditional Songs

- Theme Song: "The Great Jungle Journey" (1:53)
- Day 1 Song: "God Is Good" (1:40)
- Day 2 Song: "Messing It Up" (1:26)
- Day 3 Song: "Hello, Hello, Babble, Babble" (2:00)
- Day 4 Song: "Admit, Believe, Forever Receive" (1:57)
- Day 5 Song: "At My Journey's End" (2:21)
- Any Day Song: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (2:09)

Digital Downloads

Lead sheets, chord charts, and audio files of each contemporary music song are available to purchase and download from AnswersVBS.com. Hand-motion videos and song lyric videos are also available to purchase and download. You can also purchase licenses to distribute videos or audio files to your children.

Sheet Music

The Super Starter Kit includes a sheet music book with both contemporary and traditional songs. This book includes the lyrics and the accompaniment for each theme song. This book can also be purchased separately (12-1-065).



Student CDs

Audio CDs of the full-track songs are sold in packs of 10. These can be distributed to the children and their parents before or during VBS to help with learning the songs. They make great rewards and souvenirs of VBS, as well. The memory verse and the theme songs are together on one student CD. (Contemporary—12-1-061; Traditional—12-1-062)



Lyrics

Printable lyrics for each song are available with the Music Leader Download.

Memory Verse Songs

Encourage your kids to learn their memory verses the easy way—by singing them! We offer fun songs for each of the memory verses from *The Great Jungle Journey*.

The contemporary memory verse songs are produced by Seeds Family Worship and the traditional memory verse songs are produced by Majesty Music. Both are available with the Music Leader Download, which comes with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit.

“King of the Ages” (1 Timothy 1:17)

“Not Even One” (Psalm 14:3)

“God Created” (Genesis 1:1)

“Every Tear” (Revelation 21:4)

“Babel” (Genesis 11:9)

“Children of God” (John 1:12)

Where Does Music Fit into VBS?

There are several places you can use music in your VBS program. The opening and closing assemblies are prime spots for adding fun songs to your day. The Rain or Shine Bible Time teachers will be teaching your kids a daily memory verse, so adding the memory verse songs here will

help kids quickly and easily learn their verses. You may also want to add a song time during the snack time or an additional music rotation or play songs as groups move from place to place. Suggestions for songs to review are included in the *Travelers' Music, Mission & Memory Verse Guide*.

Cool Contests

The goal for the contests is to help teams have fun, bring friends, learn memory verses—let’s hide God’s Word in our hearts!—and complete the Go and Do sections on the back of the student guides. The student guides are loaded with great practical ideas and are a valuable component of the VBS program.

Groups that are kindergarten and older will keep track of their completed daily contests on the **Team Roster**. Younger groups will have fun participating in the contests, as well, but there will not be a scoring element involved in theirs because it’s difficult for them to understand that part of it. (All the kids greatly enjoyed participating in the cool contests at the test churches.)

Group guides need to turn in the team roster by the last rotation each day or whatever time works for your administrative team to have enough time to figure out the winning team, which is the one with the highest average point total per child. To figure this out, add all the points earned for the group and divide that number by the number of children in that group. For example, if the group earned 50,000 points and there were 10 kids, the average point total per child would be 5,000.

Announce the winning group at the end of each day’s closing assembly. Dismiss the younger children (pre-K and younger) before the winners are announced if they are picked up from another area. You may want to give each winning group member a small prize, make a donation in honor of that group to a mission of some kind, or just announce it for the fun of it.

- Being here (attendance counts!) 1,000 pts
- Bringing a friend 1,000 pts
- Learning the Daily Memory Verse 2,000 pts
- Learning the Bonus Memory Verses 2,000 pts
- Completing the Daily Go & Do Section up to 4,000 pts (1,000 points for each one completed)
- Participating in the Daily Cool Contests 1,000 pts

Day 1—Guess the Beetle Bugs

Prepare a see-through jar with “beetle bugs” that is filled with M&M’s. (Beetles come in many colors in the jungle, including all the typical M&M’s colors.) Count how many are in the jar and write the number on a piece of masking tape. Put the tape on the inside of the lid and put the lid on the jar. Place the jar, some slips of paper for kids to write their guesses on, some pens, and a small metal pail or basket somewhere near your assembly area. At any point in

the day when they are passing by, each child can write their guess and name on a slip of paper and put it in the pail or basket. Have an adult figure out who is closest and award the jar to that person during the closing assembly or at the next day’s opening assembly.

Day 2—Team Spirit

Each team comes up with a team cheer, song, motion, or sign. Or they can each wear something depicting their group. For example, if a group’s name is the Army Ants, everyone wears a camo headband, or if they’re the Green Iguanas, each person wears something green.

Day 3—YAD SDRAWKCAJ

Everyone wears clothes backwards, inside out, mismatched, or upside-down. Any confusing combination works!

Day 4—7 C’s Scavenger Hunt

Complete a scavenger hunt through the Bible that highlights each point of biblical history that we’re learning about this week.

Day 5—Mission Money Mania

Bring in your final mission money today. Double points for anyone who brings in any amount.

Director’s To-Do List for the Cool Contests

- Ahead of time, communicate to your volunteers how the contests work.
- Figure out any details for the Daily Cool Contests. (See above.)
- Print a copy of the **Team Roster** for each group guide each day and get it to them.

Have someone tally up the day’s average point totals per child and determine which group (or groups) won.

- Decide on the prizes or mission donations you want to give to the winning teams and get them organized. If you have a large VBS, you may want to award two or three winning groups—maybe a K-1 grade winner, a 2-3 winner, and a 4-6 winner.
- Announce the daily winners and prizes.
- During the closing assembly, communicate to the kids what the next day’s contests are.

Rain or Shine Bible Time

(35–40 minutes)

Children learn better and retain more by not only hearing information but also seeing, feeling, and experiencing it. With that in mind, the lesson time at VBS is fast-paced, fun, interactive, and content-rich.

Toddlers

Toddlers and young preschoolers spend their time (including lesson time, exploration stations, crafts, snacks, and games) in one classroom. For complete information on the toddlers' VBS day, see the *Toddler Teacher Guide* (12-1-043).



Pre-Primaries

This age group will rotate between two areas at the Rain or Shine Bible Time. One area is dedicated to exploration stations, and the other area is for lesson time. Children will spend 15–20 minutes in each area. (Directions are given in the *Pre-Primary Teacher Guide* [12-1-042] for adapting this time to the lesson only, with no stations, if need be.)



EXPLORATION STATIONS

You may find this is the hottest spot in all of VBS for the Pre-Primaries. They will enjoy the five stations set up in this area. The stations introduce and reinforce various aspects of the daily teaching. Guided Teaching Tie-Ins at each station ensure that active, hands-on learning is taking place. The stations are:

- Discovery Center
- Touch Table—wet version
- Touch Table—dry version
- Dramatic Play
- Coloring Corner

LESSON TIME

This time includes 1–2 costumed teachers sharing the Bible content and memory verse of the day in engaging ways.

For complete information on the exploration stations and lesson time, see the *Pre-Primary Teacher Guide*.

Primaries and Juniors

These age groups spend time in one area for the Rain or Shine Bible Time. The time will be divided into three segments.

- **Introduce It!:** This is the time to begin the lesson in an interesting way.
- **Teach It!:** This deepens the lesson with Bible teaching and apologetics content.
- **Apply It!:** The kids review the lesson and learn the memory verse of the day, using the optional daily student guides.

For complete information, see the *Primary Teacher Guide* (12-1-041) and the *Junior Teacher Guide* (12-1-040).



Special Needs

For ideas on how to modify and adapt the material in these guides to meet the special needs of those in your VBS, please see the *Special Needs Teaching Supplement* (12-1-053).

Teen/Adult

If you would like to offer a program for teens through adults, please see our *Teen/Adult Teacher Guide* (12-1-054).



Toddler Supply List

Every Day

- Theme Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Posters
- Animal Pal Posters
- 7 C's Posters
- Puppet Scripts, 2 copies daily
- Mounting putty or tape for posters
- Bible
- River guide/jungle costumes for teachers
- Boy or girl puppet and puppet stage
- Clipboard
- Optional: Memory Verse music
- MP3 download or *Simple Songs* CD (12-0-141)
- Device to play songs

Discovery Center

DAY 1:

RAINFOREST RUBBINGS

- Drip Tip Leaf Poster
- Variety of real leaves
- Crayons
- White paper, at least 1 piece per child

DAY 2: MISSING FRUIT

- 8–10 different pieces of plastic fruit
- Tray
- Towel

DAY 3: PLAY DOUGH TOWER

- Homemade or store-bought play dough

DAY 4: HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

- Christmas and Easter Pattern Cards or Christmas and Easter items
- Christmas basket and Easter basket

DAY 5: CATERPILLARS TO BUTTERFLIES

- Day 5 Animal Pal Poster
- Pictures of caterpillars and the butterflies they turn into
- Optional: model of the life cycle of a caterpillar
- Optional: play butterfly items (puzzles, books, plastic or plush animal butterflies)

Wet Touch Table

EVERY DAY

- Touch table with tarp underneath
- Water

DAY 1: CREATION COUNTING

- Sand pails

Day 1

- Dry-erase board and dry-erase markers, or large paper and markers
- Small suitcase or backpack containing crayons, scissors, and other craft supplies

Day 2

- Flood Posters
- 2 flashlights
- 5 sacks (not see-through), numbered and each holding one item or picture of the item: globe, tropical fruit, snake, same kind of fruit with a bite out of it, and **Corruption Pattern**

- Backpack or suitcase to hold the sacks
- Mini rain poncho from a trash bag
- Items to throw out the puppet area

Day 3

- Shoeboxes (ten or more)

Day 4

- Cut Out Patterns
- Nonbreakable Christmas ornaments, 1 per child
- Plastic Easter eggs, 1 per child
- Christmas tree
- Easter basket
- Scissors

- Cardboard cookie for the puppet and tape

Day 5

- Bandage for puppet
- Play doctor kit
- Bandage for Teacher 2
- Plastic bag with shoes or slippers inside
- Items or pictures of items in numbered list
- Yellow shopping bag(s) to hold the items

Student Extras

- 7 C's Maps
- Student Guides and supplies
- Bookmarks

Exploration Stations

- Extras: waterproof creation-oriented items (at least six of each), such as real leaves or plastic flowers, animals, fruits, stars, or cookie cutters in these shapes

DAY 2: TOY BOATS

- Extras: plastic boats and small plastic animals that fit on the boats, including dinosaurs (may be available at dollar stores)

DAY 3: TALL TOWERS

- Water and ice cubes
- Plastic blocks

DAY 4: BIBLE TRUTH COLORS

- Plastic balls or blocks in a dark color, red, white, and yellow
- Extras: tongs, scoops, cups, bowls

DAY 5: NO MORE TEARS

- Tear-free baby shampoo
- Washable dolls

Dry Touch Table EVERY DAY

- Animal Pal Posters
- Touch table with tarp underneath

DAY 1: ALL THINGS GREEN

- Generic or green filler (e.g., crinkle shred or Easter grass)
- Extras: lots of safe green items, such as pails, shovels, cups, plastic animals, leaves, play foods or cars, etc.

DAY 2: ALL THINGS DARK & BLUE

- Generic or blue and/or dark-colored filler (e.g., crinkle shred or Easter grass)

- Extras: lots of safe dark items and blue items, such as pails, shovels, cups, plastic animals, flowers, play foods, play cars, etc.

DAY 3: ALL THINGS GRAY

- Generic filler (e.g., crinkle shred or Easter grass) or gray/silver filler, such as Christmas tinsel or garland
- Extras: lots of safe gray and silver items, such as pails and shovels, cups, plastic animals, rocks and gems, play cars

DAY 4: ALL THINGS WHITE & RED

- Generic filler or white and red crinkle shred or Easter grass
- Extras: lots of safe white and red items, such as pails, shovels, cups, plastic animals, flowers, play foods, play cars, etc.

DAY 5: ALL THINGS YELLOW

- Generic filler or yellow crinkle shred or Easter grass
- Extras: lots of safe yellow items, such as pails and shovels, cups, plastic animals, play cars

Dramatic Play: 7 C's Explorers

EVERY DAY

- Dress-up supplies in a big suitcase with the lid safely propped open (e.g., expedition vests, pith helmets, rain boots, backpacks, raincoats, sunglasses)

DAY 1

- Play binoculars

- Stuffed, plastic, and rubber animals

DAY 2

- Stuffed or plastic animals so some are in pairs

DAY 3

- Dolls in different skin shades

DAY 4

- Roll paper or plastic tablecloth
- Inflatable or stuffed crocodiles or pictures

DAY 5

- Any items you want to add in

Coloring Corner

- Memory Verse Coloring Sheet for each day
- Markers or crayons in a woven basket or metal pail
- Optional supplies: stickers, glue sticks and items to glue on the coloring sheet (e.g., cotton balls, pom-poms, feathers, and tissue paper)

Pre-Primary Supply List

Every Day

- [Memory Verse Posters](#)
- [Animal Pal Posters](#)
- [7 C's Poster Set](#)
- [Puppet Scripts](#), 2 copies daily
- Optional: [Color Words](#) (different ones needed daily)
- Optional: one sheet each of copy paper in green, black, blue, gray, white, red, and yellow
- Bible
- River guide/jungle costumes for teachers
- Mounting putty or tape
- Boy or girl puppet and puppet stage
- Clipboard

- [Simple Songs](#) MP3 download or CD
- Memory Verse music
- MP3 or CD player

Day 1

- Dry-erase board and dry-erase markers, or large paper and markers
- Suitcase with craft supplies in it

Day 2

- [Ark Dimensions Poster](#)
- [Animals Coming Poster](#)
- [Dinosaur Poster](#)
- [Water Everywhere Poster](#)
- [Ark and Rainbow Poster](#)
- [Corruption Pattern](#) (for sack #7)
- Suitcase

- 7 plastic sacks (not see-through), each with an item or picture of an item in it: globe, snake, tropical fruit, fruit with bite out of it, dark heart, frown
- Mini rain poncho from a trash bag
- Items to throw from puppet area

Day 3

- [Confusion Concentration Cards](#)
- Shoeboxes (ten or more)

Day 4

- [Admit, Believe, Forever Receive Posters](#)
- [Cut Out Patterns](#)
- Christmas tree—whatever size works with the ornaments

- Nonbreakable Christmas ornaments, 1 per person
- Easter basket
- Easter eggs, 1 per person
- Pair of scissors
- Play food cookie and tape

Day 5

- Play doctor kit
- Yellow bag
- Items or pictures of items listed in the lesson
- Bandage around the puppet's head

Student Extras

- 7 C's Maps
- Student Guides and supplies
- Bookmarks

Exploration Stations

Discovery Center

DAY 1:

RAINFOREST RUBBINGS

- [Drip Tip Leaf Poster](#)
- Variety of real leaves
- Crayons
- White paper, at least 1 piece per person

DAY 2: MISSING FRUIT

- 8–10 different pieces of plastic fruit
- Tray
- Towel

DAY 3: BRICK BUILDING

- Any of the following: blocks, plastic interlocking bricks, such as DUPLO or LEGO, cardboard brick sets, Jenga pieces, and homemade “bricks”

DAY 4: HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

- [Christmas and Easter Pattern](#) or real Christmas and Easter items
- Christmas basket and Easter basket

DAY 5: CATERPILLARS TO BUTTERFLIES

- Pictures of caterpillars and the butterflies they turn into
- Optional: model of the life cycle of a caterpillar
- Optional: play butterfly items (puzzles, books, plastic or plush animal butterflies)

Touch Table Wet EVERY DAY

- Touch table with tarp underneath

- Water

DAY 1: CREATION COUNTING

- Waterproof creation-oriented items (at least six of each) like: fake flowers, plastic toy animals, real leaves, plastic fruits, plastic stars (cookie cutters can work)

DAY 2: TOY BOATS

- Sand pails
- Plastic boats
- Small rubber animals that fit on the plastic boats, including dinosaurs if they are small

DAY 3: PACKING PEANUT TOWERS

- Packing peanuts (found online or in supply stores)

DAY 4: BIBLE TRUTH COLORS

- Plastic balls or blocks in a dark color, red, white, and yellow
- Extras: tongs, scoops, cups, bowls

DAY 5: NO MORE TEARS

- Tear-free baby shampoo
- Washable dolls

Touch Table Dry EVERY DAY

- [Animal Pal Posters](#)
- Under-the-bed storage container, small wading pool, or “official” touch table
- Tarp or plastic tablecloth

DAY 1: ALL THINGS GREEN

- Generic filler (multicolor crinkle shred, Easter grass, or just green filler)

- Lots of safe green items, such as pails and shovels, cups, plastic crocodiles, frogs, lizards, or other green animals, plants and leaves, foods, etc.

DAY 2: ALL THINGS DARK & BLUE

- Generic filler or blue and/or dark filler—crinkle shred or Easter grass
- Lots of safe dark items and blue items, such as pails and shovels, cups, plastic animals, flowers, play foods, play cars, etc.

DAY 3: ALL THINGS GRAY

- Generic filler—or gray/silver crinkle shred, Easter grass, or silver Christmas tinsel
- Lots of safe gray and silver items, such as pails and shovels, cups, plastic animals, rocks and gems, play cars, etc.

DAY 4: ALL THINGS WHITE & RED

- Generic filler, white and red crinkle shred, or Easter grass
- Lots of safe white and red items, such as pails, shovels, cups, plastic animals, flowers, play foods, play cars, etc.

DAY 5: ALL THINGS YELLOW

- Generic filler or yellow filler—yellow crinkle shred or Easter grass
- Lots of safe yellow and gold items, such as pails and shovels, cups, plastic yellow animals, yellow play cars

Dramatic Play: 7 C's Explorers

Choose from any of the following, depending on your situation. These will be used all week.

- Decorating supplies as listed in [Decorating Decisions](#)
- Dress-up supplies in a big suitcase with the lid safely propped open (i.e., expedition vests, pith helmets, rain boots, backpacks, raincoats, sunglasses, etc.)
- Binoculars (or make your own)

DAY 1

- Stuffed animals

DAY 2

- Additional stuffed or plastic animals, so some are in pairs

DAY 3

- Dolls in different skin shades

DAY 4

- “Bridge”—see [Prep](#)
- Inflatable, stuffed, or pictures of crocodiles

DAY 5

- Any items you want to add in

Coloring Corner EVERY DAY

- [Memory Verse Coloring Sheet](#) for each day
- Decorating supplies as listed in [Decorating Decisions](#)
- Markers or crayons in a woven basket
- Optional: additional supplies to add to the sheets, including glue sticks

Primary Supply List

Every Day

- 7 C's Poster Set
- Animal Pal Posters
- Memory Verse Posters
- Puppet Scripts, 2 copies daily
- Optional: Color Words (different ones needed daily)
- Optional: one sheet each of copy paper in green, dark, blue, gray, white, red, and yellow
- Bible
- River guide/jungle costumes for teachers
- Mounting putty or tape for posters
- Boy or girl puppet and puppet stage
- Clipboard

Day 1

- Brick Factory Poster
- Evidences Posters
- Creation Drawing Pattern, 1 per person
- M&M's, 2 per child
- Optional: snack baggies or zippered pill baggies, 1 per person
- Several pieces of foil per rotation
- Grains of salt
- Balloons, 1 per rotation
- Lots of bead letters for each rotation
- Funnel
- Pin or pointy end of a paper clip
- Clipboards or hard surfaces such as magazines, 1 per person
- Drawing utensils, 1 per person
- Large dry-erase board and dry-erase marker, or chalkboard and chalk

Day 2

- Jungle Trees Poster
- Ark Dimensions Poster
- Animals Coming Poster
- Dinosaurs Poster
- Water Everywhere Poster
- Ark and Rainbow Poster
- Ark Being Built Poster (This and the rest of today's posters used for Option 2 only)
- Dog Kind Poster
- Dinosaurs Poster
- Grand Canyon and Other Poster
- Fossilized Hat and Teddy Bear Poster
- Dinosaurs Being Hunted Poster

- Play dough balls, 1 per person
- Optional: baggies for play dough balls, 1 per person
- Either: mini rain poncho made from a trash bag and items to throw out the puppet area (Option 1)
- Or: play microphone or something silly to act as a microphone, and scientist wig or jacket (Option 2)

Day 3

- Amazon Tall Tower Observatory Poster
- Babel Posters, select ones as noted
- Confusion Concentration Cards, 2 sheets per pair of kids
- Rubber bands or paper clips
- 10 tower-building items in a baggie per child
- Plates, 1 per person

Day 4

- Jungle Baby Animal Posters
- Admit, Believe, Forever Receive Posters
- Color Cross Pattern, 1 per person, on a clipboard
- Large Post-its or removable paper to cover words on animal posters
- Optional: paper clips or mini envelopes, 1 per person
- Crayons or colored pencils, 1 of each of the following in a bundle per child: green, dark, blue, red, and yellow (white and gray are optional)
- Play-food cookie and tape
- Bag of beads with several of each of the 7 colors: green, dark, blue, gray, white, red, and yellow
- Pipe cleaners, 1 per team
- Small dry-erase boards and dry-erase markers, 1 of each per team
- Or: paper on clipboards or a hard surface, and writing utensils, 1 of each per team

Day 5

- Man-Made Creations Poster
- Zip Line Cards
- True or False Cards, 1 set per person, paper clipped
- 5 sheets of blue card stock
- Bandage around the puppet's head
- Rope to act as the zip line
- Small clothespins

Student Extras

- 7 C's Maps
- Student Guides and supplies
- Follow-up Bible study and/or bookmarks

Junior Supply List

Every Day

- 7 C's Poster Set
- Animal Pal Posters
- Memory Verse Posters
- Optional: **Color Words** (different ones needed daily)
- Optional: one sheet each of copy paper in green, black, blue, gray, white, red, and yellow
- Bible
- River guide/jungle costumes for teachers
- Mounting putty or tape for posters

Day 1

- Brick Factory Poster
- Evidences Posters
- Creation Drawing Pattern**, 1 per person
- M&M's, 2 per person
- Optional: snack baggies or pill-sized zippered baggies, 1 per person
- Rectangular pieces of tin foil, 2–3 per person (pop-up sheets from restaurant supply stores work well)
- Grains of salt
- Balloons, 1 per rotation
- Lots of bead letters for each rotation
- Funnel
- Pin or pointy end of a paper clip
- Clipboards or hard surfaces such as magazines, 1 per person
- Drawing utensils, 1 per person
- Large dry-erase board and dry-erase marker or chalkboard and chalk

Day 2

- Jungle Trees Poster
- Ark Dimensions Poster
- Ark Being Built Poster
- Animals Coming Poster
- Dog Kind Poster
- Dinosaurs Poster
- Water Everywhere Poster
- Ark and Rainbow Poster
- Grand Canyon and Other Poster
- Fossilized Hat and Teddy Bear Poster
- Dinosaurs Being Hunted Poster
- Play dough balls, 1 per person
- Optional: baggies to put play dough in, 1 per person
- Play microphone or something silly for a microphone

- Scientist wig or jacket

Day 3

- Amazon Tall Tower Observatory Poster
- Babel Posters
- Babel Verse Cards**
- Babel Bingo Card**, 1 per person
- Babel Bingo Draw Cards**
- 10 or more tower building supplies per person in a baggie
- Plates, 1 per person
- Writing utensils, 1 per person
- Optional: baggie with 20 pieces (see Prep), 1 per person
- Basket
- Optional: clipboards or hard surface, 1 per person

Day 4

- Jungle Baby Animal Posters
- Amazon River Poster
- Admit, Believe, Forever Receive Poster Set**
- Color Cross Pattern**, 1 per person on a clipboard
- Large Post-its or removable paper to cover words on animal posters
- Crayons or colored pencils, 1 of each of the following per person in a bundle: green, black, blue, red, and yellow (white and gray are optional)
- Optional: paper clips or mini envelopes, 1 per person
- Bag of beads with several of each of the 7 colors: green, dark blue, gray, white, red, and yellow
- Pipe cleaners, 1 per team
- Small dry-erase boards and dry-erase markers, 1 of each per team
- OR paper on clipboards or hard surfaces, and writing utensils, 1 of each per team

Day 5

- Man-Made Creations Poster
- Zip Line Cards**
- True or False Cards**, 1 set per person, paper clipped
- 5 sheets of blue card stock
- Rope to act as the zip line
- Small clothespins

Student Extras

- 7 C's Maps
- Student Guides and supplies
- Follow-up Bible study and/or bookmarks

Tree-mendous Science and Crafts

(35–40 minutes)

Welcome to a favorite spot in the VBS world—the craft and science room! Crafts and hands-on science activities are a fun and meaningful way to introduce and reinforce key concepts. Get the detailed art smarts in the *Tree-mendous Science and Crafts Guide* but check below for a brief overview of some of the main science and craft activities. There are many craft options, ranging from a main craft each day, to fun extra craft options, to premade craft kits that can be purchased online and used any day. The science activities are also fun and thematic. Pick and choose to fit your situation, using any combination of strategic ideas for this rotation.

Day 1

Crafts: Face Planter and My Bug Jar

The green color in our Face Planter and Bug Jar reminds us of creation and how God is an amazing Creator.



Science Experiments: Order Disorder and Stack the Layers

1. A fun light bulb experiment will teach us about the laws of science that God set in place when he created the world.
2. We'll explore the layers of the rainforest in our colorful, interactive Stack the Layers experiment.

Day 2

Crafts: Straw Serpent and Rainy Day Rain Gauge

1. The Straw Serpent reminds us of how corruption entered our world through Adam's sin.
2. The Rainy Day Rain Gauge helps us remember Noah's flood, the catastrophe that dramatically changed our world.



Science Experiments: Fallen Foliage and Corruption Eruption

1. We'll learn about how the fall affected plants and animals and will attempt to make our own traps in our Fallen Foliage experiment.
2. Catastrophic Eruption will teach us about the volcanoes that erupted during Noah's flood.

Day 3

Crafts: Tricky Triangle Game and Toothpick Tower

Our Tricky Triangle Game and Toothpick Tower teach us about the confusion that was present at Babel and how it shaped the formation of cultures and people groups.



Science Experiments: Skin-Deep and Tower Test

These experiments will teach us about the tower of Babel and the development of the different people groups we see today.

Day 4

Crafts: Christmas Ornament and Easter Diorama

1. Our Christmas Ornament reminds us that the birth of Christ is the reason we celebrate Christmas.
2. Our Easter Diorama helps us remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for the sins of humanity.



Science Experiments: Don't Eat Me! and Good Wood

1. During Don't Eat Me!, we'll take a fun look at the defense mechanisms of various animals and connect them to the curse placed on creation after Adam's sin.
2. Ring Around a Tree will teach us about trees and will remind us of the tree on which Jesus died.

Day 5

Crafts: 7 C's Bracelet (or Necklace) and Beautiful Butterfly

1. Our 7 C's bracelet helps us remember what we've learned this week about biblical history.
2. The Beautiful Butterfly symbolizes the consummation that will happen in the new heaven and new earth and how all God's people will be made new.



Science Experiments: Cycling in the Jungle and Good Again

Cycling in the Jungle and Good Again will remind us in hands-on ways of how God will restore all things to a very good state in the new heaven and new earth.

Craft Supply List

Day 1

Face Planter

- Shoes Pattern
- Genesis 1:1 Verse Pattern
- Take Home Instructions Pattern
- 4 oz. soufflé cups with lids, 1 per child
- Potting soil, approx. ½ cup per child
- Grass or cress seed, ¼ tsp. per child
- Wiggle eyes, 2 per child
- Mini pom-poms, 1 per child
- Red chenille stems, 1-in. piece per child
- Light-colored card stock, 1 sheet for every 9 children
- Light-colored card stock, 1 sheet for every 28 children
- Light-colored card stock, 1 sheet for every 10 children
- Glue dots, 4–5 per child
- Snack-size zippered baggies, 1 per child

My Bug Jar

- Genesis 1:1 Verse Pattern
- Clear plastic jars with screw-on lids, 1 per child
- Colored chenille stems, 2 per child
- Small bug stickers, 5–7 per child
- Pine needles, small pine cones, small sticks
- Colored card stock, 1 sheet for every 28 children

Day 2

Straw Serpent

- Snake Head Pattern
- Black chenille stems, 1 per child
- Red chenille stems, 1 per child
- Colored boba straws or paper straws, 2 per child
- Wiggle eyes, 2 per child
- Glue dots, 2 per child
- Colored card stock

Rainy Day Rain Gauge

- Paint sticks, 1 per child
- Empty clear plastic drink bottles (16 oz.), 1 per child
- 4-in. clear zip ties, 1 per child
- Green acrylic paint
- Sponges, 2-in. square per child
- Clear label sheets, 1 label per child

Day 3

Tricky Triangle Game

- Tricky Triangle Pattern
- Uline 4 x 4 x 1 White Mailer (Model #S-11232), 1 per child
- Bright yellow card stock, 1 sheet for every 4 children
- Golf tees, 14 per child
- Zippered baggies, 1 per child
- Optional: Ziggurat Pictures

Toothpick Tower

- Tower of Babel Circle Pattern
- Toothpicks, amounts vary (see Prep)
- Mini marshmallows, amounts vary (see Prep)
- Bowls or baggies for toothpicks and marshmallows (see Prep)
- 9-in. paper plates, 1 per child
- White card stock, 1 sheet per child

Day 4

Christmas Ornament

- Jesus Gift Tag Pattern
- 1 x 2 boards, 2½ in. per child
- Aluminum foil, one 4 x 5-in. piece per child
- ¼-in. red ribbon, 12 in. per child
- Red card stock, 1 sheet for every 60 children
- Glue dots, 1 per child
- Tiny screw eyes, 1 per child

Easter Diorama (V.1)

- Risen Sign Pattern
- White air-dry modeling compound, ½ oz. per child
- Plastic wrap, amount varies
- Small zippered baggies, 1 per child
- Mini crosses, 1 per child
- Brown craft foam, one 3 x 3 in. piece per child
- Bright yellow card stock, 1 sheet for every 30 children
- Glue dots, 4 per child

Easter Diorama (V.2)

- Risen Sign Pattern
- No-bake salt dough, 2-in. ball per child
- Mini crosses, 1 per child

- Bright yellow card stock, 1 sheet for every 30 children
- Green crinkle cut shred, amount varies
- 7-in. paper dessert plates, 1 per child

Day 5

7 C's Bracelet or Necklace

- Black waxed cotton cording, 18 in. per child (V.1)
- Black elastic cording, 27 in. per child (V.2)
- Green, dark, blue, gray, white, red, and yellow pony beads, 1 of each color per child

Beautiful Butterfly

- Bright-colored chenille stems, 1 for every 3 children (for Pre-Primary, 1 for every 2 children)
- Bright- or pastel-colored copy paper, ½ sheet per child (for Pre-Primary, 1 sheet per child)

Tools and Basic Supplies

- Measuring cups and spoons
- Large bowls
- Office paper cutter
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Colored markers
- Hand drill with ¼-in. drill bit
- Transparent tape
- ¼-in. hole punch
- Hand drill and a ⅜-in. drill bit
- Fine-point black permanent markers
- Styrofoam plates
- Paper towels
- Small (fist-size) rocks
- Common nails
- Optional: old magazines
- Crayons, markers, highlighters, or colored pencils
- Power saw
- Sandpaper
- Yellow, orange, and green water-color markers
- Red and yellow food coloring
- Plastic wrap
- Zippered baggies
- Plastic bowls and spoons, 7 of each per table

Experiments Supply List

Day 1

Order and Disorder

FOR DEMO

- LEGO Pictures
- LEGO bricks:
 - 12 small squares of same color
 - 6 medium bricks of same color
 - 6 large bricks of same color

PER STUDENT, SMALL GROUP, OR TABLE

- 6 small blocks per child
- 1 bin to hold the blocks
- 1 bowl to hold the following:
 - 1 AA battery
 - 1 AA battery holder with wire leads
 - 1 mini light bulb and socket

Stack the Layers

PER STUDENT

- Rainforest Layers Pattern
- Envelope
- 8½ x 11 sheet of printable transparency film
- Small brass fastener
- Permanent marker
- Optional: small rainforest animal stickers

TEACHER USE

- Rainforest Animal Pictures
- Scissors or paper cutter
- Small hole punch

Day 2

Fallen Foliage

FOR DEMO

- Gift box with separate lid
- Unsharpened pencil
- 18-inch piece of string
- Plastic drink bottle
- Empty cereal box
- 6-inch piece of string
- Small plastic animal
- Pair of scissors

PER TABLE

- Gift box with separate lid
- Unsharpened pencil
- 18-inch piece of string
- Plastic drink bottle

PER STUDENT, SMALL GROUP, OR TABLE

- Venus Flytrap Care Instructions
- 1 Venus flytrap potted plant
- 1 plastic cup to hold the potted plant
- Distilled water or rainwater

TEACHER USE

- Rainforest Traps Pictures

- Trays for leaders to carry plants

Catastrophic Eruption

PER STUDENT OR TABLE

- 40 ml ketchup
- 40 ml vinegar
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 25 ml water
- Liquid dish soap
- 1 paper towel
- 1 4-oz. empty bottle
- 1 6-oz. paper cone
- 1 disposable bowl
- 1 irrigation syringe with tip cap (≥ 50 ml)

PER TABLE

- 1 bucket for cleanup
- Extra paper towels for spills

TEACHER USE

- Earth Layers Illustration
- Volcanoes Illustration

Day 3

Skin-Deep

PER STUDENT

- Cellophane (or other transparent material) in a variety of colors
- One envelope (larger than 3 x 5)

TEACHER USE

- Optional: world map

Tower Test

PER STUDENT OR SMALL GROUP

- At least 55 small, 1- or 2-inch building blocks
- One paper plate

TEACHER USE

- Ziggurat Picture
- Clock, watch, or timer

Day 4

Don't Eat Me

PER STUDENT

- 20–40 dry brown beans
- 2 brown M&M's (same color as the beans)
- 2 brightly colored M&M's
- Camphor essential oil
- Cotton ball or swab
- Bite-size scoop of passion fruit
- 1 unsweetened 100% cacao chocolate chip
- Plastic spoon
- 2 small sample cups with lids
- 2 zippered snack bags

TEACHER USE

- Defense Mechanisms Pictures

Ring Around a Tree

PER STUDENT

- Plastic drinking straw
- Small cup of water
- Small wood slice (cross section)

TEACHER USE

- Tree Diagram

Day 5

Cycling in the Jungle

PER STUDENT

- 4 gray, 6 white, 3 red pony beads in a zippered baggie
- 10-inch length of pony-bead lacing cord or Rexlace
- 5 x 5-inch piece of foil
- Paper towel
- 2 plastic cups
- Plastic spoon
- Water

PER TABLE

- Bucket for waste water

TEACHER USE

- Optional: Tree Bark Pattern
- 1 sheet of 8½ x 11-inch water-soluble label stock per 10 students or water-soluble canning labels

Good Again

FOR DEMO

- 15 ml disposable centrifuge tube with lid
- Disposable pipette
- Paper towel
- Portion cup with water

PER STUDENT

- Distilled water
- Sodium carbonate (washing powder, soda ash, pH plus)
- Phenolphthalein indicator
- Vinegar
- 15 ml disposable centrifuge tube with lid
- 2 disposable pipettes
- 2 portion cups with lids
- Paper towel

PER TABLE

- Bucket for cleanup

TEACHER USE

- Permanent marker
- Container for mixing
- Large spoon for mixing

Canopy Café Snacks

(15–20 minutes)

Crunch! Slurp! Chomp! Gulp! Kids and food are always a hit, so make the most of another favorite VBS time—snack time. This rotation is designed not only to refresh the kids physically but also to build relationships and reinforce the lesson of the day. Get the detailed scoop in the *Canopy Café Snacks Guide*, which includes healthy and super simple alternatives as well.

Day 1

- Today's Snack: Dirt Dessert and Forest Fruit
- Today's Drink: Green Gulper

Today's snacks remind us of how God created everything, including things like dirt and plant life.



Day 2

- Today's Snack: Serpent Snack and Tree Treat
- Today's Drink: Dark Drink

Today's snacks help us remember the corruption that entered the world when Adam and Eve sinned.



Day 3

- Today's Snack: Shades of Pudding Parfaits and Wacky Mixed-Up Trail Mix
- Today's Drink: Muddled Drink

Our Wacky Mixed-Up Trail Mix reminds us of how catastrophic and mixed-up everything was during Noah's flood.

The Shades of Pudding Parfait teaches us how the confusion at Babel dispersed people throughout the earth, which resulted in the formation of various shades of skin.

Day 4

- Today's Snack: Gospel Goodies and Nativity Nibbles
- Today's Drink: Pink Drink

Our snacks remind us of how Christ came to earth as a baby and died on the cross so we could be forgiven of our sins.



Day 5

- Today's Snack: 7 C's Boat and Colorful Bites
- Today's Drink: Golden Gulper

Today's snacks help us review the 7 C's of History that we've covered this week.

Snack Supply List

Day 1

DIRT DESSERT (FOR 10 SERVINGS)

- 2 c. cold milk
- 1 (3.9 oz.) package instant chocolate pudding (4 serving size)
- 8 oz. frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1½ c. crushed chocolate sandwich cookies (about 20), divided
- 20 gummy animals
- 10 punch cups
- Optional: ice cream scoop

FOREST FRUIT (PER CHILD)

- 3 pieces each of several green fruits such as green apples, green grapes, honeydew, kiwi, or green pears
- Long coffee stirrer

GREEN GULPER

- Green drink (e.g., green fruit punch, green powdered drink mix, limeade, or green sports drink), 1 quart for every 5 children

Day 2

SERPENT SNACK (PER CHILD)

- 1 vanilla or chocolate doughnut
- 2 vanilla or chocolate doughnut holes
- 2 mini M&M's
- Thin red licorice, cut into 1-inch pieces

TREE TREAT (PER CHILD)

- Half a pretzel rod
- Baggie of pretzel sticks (approximately 10–12)
- Edible decorations that represent leaves or fruit on a tree such as:
 - Blueberries
 - Fruit Loops or Cheerios
 - Fruit-shaped gummies or cut-up pieces of fruit leather
- Optional if making individual kits: gallon-size bags

DARK DRINK

- Dark drink (e.g., grape juice, grape powdered drink mix, dark colas), 1 quart for every 5 children

Day 3

SHADES OF PUDDING PARFAITS (PER CHILD)

- ¼ c. chocolate pudding
- ¼ c. butterscotch pudding
- ¼ c. vanilla pudding

- If making pudding: milk to add to instant dry pudding mixes
- Whipped topping, a dollop
- 1 honey and 1 chocolate Teddy Graham cracker
- Punch cup

WACKY MIXED-UP TRAIL MIX (PER CHILD)

- Trail mix ingredients such as the following:
 - Chex cereal (regular or vanilla and chocolate)
 - Cheerios
 - M&M's
 - Chocolate chips
 - Yogurt melts
 - Gummy snakes or frogs
 - Gray Sixlets
 - Mini pretzels
 - Goldfish crackers
 - Oyster crackers
 - Banana chips
 - Dried acai berries
 - Dried pineapple
 - Other dried tropical fruits
- 4 oz. gray paper coffee cups, 1 per child
- Optional: international or footprint stickers or rubber stamps and ink pad

MUDDLED (GRAY) DRINK

- Various flavors of drink mixes mixed together, 1 quart for every 5 children

Day 4

GOSPEL GOODIES (PER CHILD)

- 1 brownie, store-bought or homemade
- White icing
- 7 red M&M's or 2 strands of thin red licorice
- Optional: heart cookie cutter

NATIVITY NIBBLES (PER CHILD)

- Nativity Nibbles Placemat Map**, 1 per person
- 4 rectangular crackers such as Club Crackers, or 2 pretzel rods
- 2 pretzel sticks
- 1 Chex square
- 2 oval green grape halves or long Moon Drop grape halves
- Several pieces of popcorn (store-bought or pop yourself)
- Part of a slice of cheese
- Tiny star cookie cutter
- Optional: pot, lid, and oil for popping corn

PINK DRINK

- Pink lemonade powdered drink mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children

Day 5

7 C'S BOAT (PER CHILD)

- Green food such as a couple green grapes, green apple slices, or pear slices
- Dark food such as a few chocolate chips (or chocolate anything) or a couple blackberries
- Blue food such as a couple blue corn chips or blueberries
- Gray food such as a spoonful of chia seed pudding or gray Sixlet candies
- White food such as a couple white cheese cubes or white yogurt melts
- Red food such as a couple pieces of pepperoni, raspberries, or strawberries
- Yellow food such as a couple pieces of pineapple, yellow corn chips, or yellow cheese cubes and crackers
- Disposable paper food boats (like hot dogs are served in) or Styrofoam hot dog containers cut in half, 1 per child
- Flag on a toothpick, 1 per child

COLORFUL BITES (PER CHILD)

- Waffle pretzels, 4–7
- Milk chocolate kisses, 4–7
- M&M's, 4 random or 7 (one of each color)
- Optional: gray M&M's and white M&M's

GOLDEN GULPER

- Lemonade powdered drink mix and water, 1 quart per every 5 children

Basic Supplies

- Mixing bowls, stirring spoons, and whisks
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Spatulas
- Drink pitchers or coolers
- Knives and cutting boards
- Kitchen scissors
- Cookie sheets
- Parchment paper
- Plates, snack-size baggies, napkins, spoons, and/or cups for serving

Use this supply list to estimate the snack supplies you need, allowing for extras. This list is based on the suggested snack and drink of the day. Modify the list as necessary based on your chosen snack and drink.

Rainforest Recreation

(15–20 minutes)



Get ready to have a blast at Rainforest Recreation. This rotation helps reinforce concepts learned, teaches practical lessons in sportsmanship, and is downright fun! Get the particulars in the game guide but check below for a brief overview. Choose the games that best fit your situation.

The game guide also lists super simple game options, games just for the younger kids, and extra game ideas. There are loads of great possibilities!

Day 1

Game 1: Jungle Obstacle Course

Exciting jungle-related challenges remind us of our Creator God, who made us in his image with the ability to think, move, and enjoy creation.

Game 2: Sea and Sky Tag

This fun tag game helps us remember how God created the sea and sky during the six days of creation.

Day 2

Game 1: Tox Tag

Don't get poisoned by Tox the poison dart frog in this energetic game of chase which teaches us that, before the fall, animals would not have had the capacity to hurt anyone.

Game 2: Rainy Relay

Teams race to fill their buckets in this fun game that teaches us about the global flood.

Day 3

Game 1: Confusing Competitions

A bunch of backward games will remind us of the confusing events that happened at the tower of Babel.

Game 2: Babel Bricks

During this fast-paced competition, players work in teams to find and defend their building materials, just like groups of people who spoke the same language worked together to build communities after the tower of Babel.

Day 4

Game 1: Capture the Gifts

This version of Capture the Flag helps us remember the gifts brought to Jesus at his birth.

Game 2: Cross Kickball

A playing field set up in the shape of a cross teaches us about the love of God displayed in the death of Christ.

Day 5

Game 1: Seven C's Splash

Teams race to throw seven balls, representing the 7 C's of History, into the opposing team's baby pool in this fun water-filled contest.

Game 2: Coconut Launch

In this game that adds a twist to beach ball volleyball, we look forward to the consummation of history when God will make a new heaven and new earth.

Game Supply List

Day 1

JUNGLE OBSTACLE COURSE

The following is a list of possible supplies. Select supplies based on the obstacles you choose.

- Rope, tape, or cones to mark start/finish lines
- Blue tarp
- Sprinkler
- Bucket/bin and small balls
- 5 or more large cones
- Green and blue party streamers
- Tape
- 5–6 hula-hoops
- Play tunnel
- Kiddie pool with water
- Plastic fish
- Kids' fishing net
- Table
- Pool noodles
- Clean trash can or bucket

SEA AND SKY TAG

- Cones, rope, or field paint to mark boundaries

Day 2

RAINY RELAYS

- Buckets or tubs, 2 per team
- Plastic cups (with or without holes poked in the bottom) and sponges, 2–3 per team—see Tip Corner
- Water
- Ruler or measuring tape
- Scissors, a nail, or a letter opener
- Jump ropes
- Optional: extra balls/sponges, spray bottles, or water guns—see Tip Corner

TOX TAG

- Cones, rope, or field paint to mark the play area

Day 3

CONFUSING COMPETITIONS

The following is a list of possible supplies. Select supplies based on the games you choose.

- Cones, rope, tape, chalk, or field paint to mark boundaries or start/finish lines
- Soccer ball and two nets
- Whistle
- Frisbees and pool noodles, 1 of each per team
- Soccer balls, 1 or more per team
- Small balls or beanbags, 1 per player
- Hula-hoops or large buckets, 1 per team
- Individual jump ropes, 1 per team
- Long jump ropes, 1 per team

BABEL BRICKS

- Cones, rope, or field paint to mark the play area
- 40–50 beanbags
- 4 hula-hoops
- Bandanas, wristbands, or jerseys to denote teams
- Timer

Day 4

CAPTURE THE GIFTS

- 6 cones or bandanas (3 per team)
- Bandanas, jerseys, or wristbands to denote teams
- Whistle
- 2 hula-hoops
- Cones, chalk, field paint, or rope to mark boundary lines—see Tip Corner

CROSS KICKBALL

- 4 objects for bases and 1 for the pitcher's mound
- Kickball or playground ball—see Tip Corner

Day 5

SEVEN C'S SPLASH

- 2–4 kiddie pools—see Tip Corner
- 2–4 large bins or buckets filled with water
- Splash balls, 2–3 per player—see Tip Corner
- Cones, rope, or field paint to mark play area

COCONUT LAUNCH

- Beach towels, 1 per pair of players
- Rope, cones, tape, or volleyball net—see Tip Corner
- 1 beach ball or volleyball or lots of white water balloons
- Optional: large sheets—see Tip Corner

Jungle Jam Assembly—Closing

(15–25 minutes)

The closing assembly is designed to rivet kids with a drama and keep them happily singing as they head home. Review all the specifics in the *Assembly Guide* but check out the following for a quick overview.

- **Music:** The day starts with music; the day ends with music. Conclude your day with several songs interspersed throughout the closing assembly.
- **Creature Feature:** God’s creatures are amazing and so cool to check out! We’ll highlight true info about each day’s Animal Pal. Note: the Creature Feature can be done in the opening assembly, if you prefer. There are **presentation images** or **videos** to use.
 - » Day 1: Green Parrot
 - » Day 2: Blue Poison Dart Frog
 - » Day 3: Silverback Gorilla
 - » Day 4: Pink River Dolphin
 - » Day 5: Bird-Wing Butterfly
- **Drama or Skits:** A group of enthusiastic (and not-so-enthusiastic) adventure seekers sets out on a jungle river cruise, only to be stranded at the very beginning of their journey. Along the way, after many twists, turns, and laughs, they learn about the wonder of the Bible and its central figure, Jesus Christ.
- **Contests:** Announce winners of today’s contests, if having winners. Announce whatever pertinent info they need to know about tomorrow’s contests. (See the Cool Contests section for more details.) For instance, remind them to do their Go and Do sheets, learn their memory verses, and do one of the following.

DAY 1—GUESS THE BEETLE BUGS

Prepare a see-through jar with “beetle bugs” (M&M’s). Count how many are in the jar and write the number on a piece of masking tape. Put the tape on the inside

of the lid and put the lid on the jar. Place the jar, some slips of paper for kids to write their guesses on, some pens, and a small metal pail or basket somewhere near your assembly area. At any point in the day when they are passing by, each child can write their name and guess on a slip of paper and put it in the pail or basket. Have an adult figure out who is closest and award the jar to that person during the closing assembly or at the next day’s opening assembly.

DAY 2—TEAM SPIRIT

Each team comes up with a team cheer, song, motion, or sign. Or they can each wear something depicting their group. For example, if a group’s name is the Army Ants, everyone wears a camo headband.

DAY 3—YAD SDRAWKCAB

Everyone dresses up in backwards, upside-down, or confusing attire.

DAY 4—7 C’s SCAVENGER HUNT

Complete a scavenger hunt through Scripture to find biblical truths about the 7 C’s of History.

DAY 5—MISSION MONEY MANIA

Bring in your final mission money today. Double points for anyone who brings in any amount.

- **Announcements:** Communicate pertinent information of the day.
- **Takeaway Time:** Share one last thought before the kids leave for the day.

Dismissal

Dismissal can be the most chaotic time of the VBS day, but there is no need for it to be. Order and safety are top concerns, so have a plan of action for safety during dismissal.

- Require caretakers to park and come in to pick up their children. This eliminates children dashing through the parking lot without adult supervision.
- Decide where children will be picked up by their caretakers and inform caretakers at check-in time. Put this information in your *Caretaker Handbook*.
- Group guides and assistants must stay with the children until they are safely checked out. Collect name tags and make sure all papers, crafts, and belongings go home.
- Caretakers should initial the check-in/checkout roster.
- Toddler/preschool checkout should take place in self-contained classrooms. Have the parents sign the children out on the check-in/checkout roster.
- Make sure children are dismissed only to authorized individuals.
- If someone different from the drop-off person is picking up the child, make sure the group guide knows this and writes it down at check-in time.
- If your church uses electronic checkout, follow your procedures for that.

Your Ideas

These additional ideas were shared by VBS directors just like you!

- “We have over 150 kids. We use the online registration and have added a field for names of people authorized to pick up the child. Those names are printed on the child’s name tag (using mail merge). At the end of closing assembly, we have parents/caregivers enter at the back of the sanctuary. They gather all their children (with the leaders checking IDs as needed), then exit at the front where staff members are waiting to collect name tags. The one-way traffic flow through the sanctuary really helped us reduce the chaos at dismissal.” — Nancy O.
- “We have about 140 kids, so we don’t have a closing; instead, they are in their rooms. Each parent has a security card and must hand it to the teacher before the child is allowed to go.” — Laurie P.
- “We are a small church that draws in around 100 kids from the community. When kids come on Monday morning, they are given a name tag with a number on it. Every kid from the same household gets the same number. The parent gets a card with that number on it, as well as their last name. At the end of every day that week, the parents line up and show their card to someone at the back of the sanctuary who has a microphone. The announcer says the last name and number and usually asks the parent for the kids’ first names to call those, too. (Younger kids especially don’t always hear/recognize their last name

and number.) Then one final precaution: the kids are instructed to hand their name tags to one of the adults at the back who will check their number with the number of the parent picking them up. If a parent needs to have someone else pick their household up, they give them that card. If they don’t have that card with the right number, the VBS director will call the parent and verify that the kid(s) can go home with the person who’s there.” — Kristi D.

- “We usually run between 70–100 children each year. The children are given numbers on their name tags. When the parent drops them off, the parent is given a wristband—silicone with our church name and phone number on it—that has a number that matches the one on the child’s name tag. At dismissal, the teams line up at specific doors at the back of our sanctuary and the parents meet them there. The parent gives the wristband to the team leader who then matches it to the number on the child’s name tag. Then they go into our gym to pick up their craft and go out the gym doors. We love the one-way traffic and this helped cut our pickup time down by 10 minutes or so!” — Cathy T.
- “I took the registration forms that name the authorized adults who could pick up each kid. Made a list in alphabetical order of the child’s name, then listed the adults who could come pick them up. At dismissal, I had two lines (A–M and N–Z) out in front of the building and parents had to show ID and be checked off before entering the building to get their child. It really worked great!” — Cason W.
- “Parents are notified during check-in that they are welcome to come at 8–8:30 for our closing ceremonies, and at dismissal at 8:30, kids stay put in their seats (in worship center) while parents come to our crew leaders and sign their initials next to child’s name and leave with child. The crew leaders have a list of children’s names, parent phone numbers, and the name of approved pickup person.” — Lynel W.
- “We all come together for closing ceremony and parents are lined up outside in a car line much like they would at our local schools. The parents have name tags they hand to the worker, who brings them inside and the name is announced on the microphone. All exterior doors are locked so no one can come inside. We’ve had issues with kids running through the parking lot with cars going everywhere. Workers’ kids have to remain seated (I need the workers’ help anyways) until the car line is gone. This also keeps all my workers together so I can make any announcements/reminders about the next day.” — Heather W.

FOLLOW-UP

FURTHER FIELD NOTES

VBS is over and you're ready to sit back and put your feet up. But wait! You still need to tie up the loose ends and finish strong. Make sure you follow up with the children, the VBS crew, and the church.

Follow Up with the Children

- Continue to pray!
- Host the Closing Program, warmly welcoming all kids back.
- Talk with each child who indicated a decision for Christ. Make sure his family is aware of the decision.
- Have each group guide write follow-up postcards (12-1-029) to children in his group and turn them in to office staff to address and mail.
- Send birthday postcards (12-1-046) to children over the following year to let them know you are thinking of them.
- Send invitations to future children's events.
- Get permission from caregivers to post pictures of their kids and/or to post your VBS compilation video, if you made one for the closing program. You can use YouTube or Facebook to



- show the video or use a live broadcast tool like Periscope or Facebook's Live feature.
- Use your hashtag to continue to collect posts.
- Plan to host a fun-filled event approximately a month after VBS. Stop by homes of visitors or mail them a picture of their child at VBS (12-1-084) and invite them to the upcoming event. Event ideas include a church family picnic, kids' concert, or back-to-school bash.
- You may also want to consider taking a trip to the Creation Museum (CreationMuseum.org) located near Cincinnati in Petersburg, KY. This museum features a walk through biblical history based on the 7 C's of History. Special group rates are available.
- Or plan a trip to the Ark Encounter (ArkEncounter.com) in Williamstown, KY. The Ark Encounter features a full-size replica of Noah's ark, complete with a fun petting zoo and zip lines.

Follow Up with the VBS Crew

- Host a staff party. Give out recognition awards and staff appreciation postcards (12-1-012).
- Ask the VBS crew to chime in with quick praises on the VBS Facebook page or other social media sites your church is using.



- Have each leadership crew member write a personal thank-you note to each staff member on her team.
- Complete and mail the **director's evaluation form** to Answers in Genesis. We'll email you a 10% off coupon on your next purchase from AiG.
- Conduct a debriefing with the leadership team to brainstorm thoughts for next year.

Follow Up with the Church

- Clean, organize, and store all items that can be reused.
- Complete all record-keeping, including updating the church database.
- Send the mission money to the appropriate place. See the Mission Moment section of the Resource Download for a **Donation Submission Form** to fill out and return, along with the money, to CHF.
- Give a praise report to the church family and post an article on the church website, on the VBS Facebook page, or in the newsletter.

River Cruise Closing Program

A great week needs a great ending with a great closing program. This brings everyone together to celebrate and learn what God has been doing all week. Be prepared to lovingly welcome any who do not normally attend church. This is a wonderful time to share Christ's love and build relationships!

Choose a time to host the closing program (e.g., the last evening of VBS or a morning or evening church service following the end of VBS). Include this information in your *Caretaker Handbook*. Send out invitation postcards (12-1-030) midweek.



Before the Closing Program

During the 30 minutes before the program begins, families visit the various areas of *The Great Jungle Journey*. Leaders of these areas should be in their respective spots to meet and greet everyone and share about the week.

During the Closing Program

- **Share Terrific Trivia Tidbits.** As a fun way to start things off, share some rainforest trivia. See page 10.
- **Perform a drama segment.** Choose a favorite drama section, or even an entire day's drama, and perform it again.
- **Sing songs.** Have the children sing favorite VBS songs for their parents.
- **Share cheers.** Give groups with cheers an opportunity to share them.
- **Review the Animal Pals/Creature Features.** Show the Animal Pals and see if the kids can share a bit about them and review the real-life design features of those creatures.
- **Recite memory verses that were learned.** Have various age groups share their memory verses or have all children recite the theme verse.
- **Announce the final mission total.** Tell about the mission project you've been collecting money for and announce the totals.

- **Announce contest info.** Share any pertinent info regarding the Cool Contests of the week.
- **Show highlights.** Recap the week's events with a short highlight reel, movie, or pictures. Parents love to see their children in pictures.
- **Share stories.** Have those with compelling stories share their experiences from the week.
- **Play a review game.** Divide into groups and challenge each with review questions from the week. Groups can be parents versus children or boys versus girls.
- **Share the gospel.** Have your pastor (or children's pastor) share the gospel so the kids can hear it again and the parents and visitors can hear it, as well.
- **Thank the VBS staff.** Have your pastor recognize your volunteers by having them stand and receive huge applause!
- **Share announcements and pray.** Have your pastor make any announcements, invite everyone to future church events, and then close the program in prayer.

After the Closing Program

Serve fun snacks in the snack area. Choose from the ideas given for the training workshops, the carnival, or VBS week.

If you didn't host the carnival, do so now and let everyone end the week with some added fun.

Leading a Child to Christ

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” Romans 1:16

VBS presents an ideal opportunity to share the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ with all attending. Every leader and team member should be ready to clearly present the gospel and counsel those wanting to learn more. Children are usually soft-hearted toward things of the Lord, and some will be interested in becoming a follower of Christ. Be ready, because eternal matters matter most!

Before

- **Pray.** Salvation is God’s work, not ours. We cannot bring about salvation for anyone. We need to ask God to prepare the children and open their hearts to him.
- **Be prepared.** Learn more about presenting the gospel and counseling a child about salvation.

During

The gospel will be presented during the lesson time. Opportunities may arise, however, to share with a child one-on-one or with a small group of children. If so, keep the following in mind:

- Becoming a child of God involves repenting of one’s sin and having faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Repentance involves understanding what sin is (disobeying God’s commands) and desiring to turn from that sin.
- You can use the booklet *How Can I Become a Child of God?* along with your Bible to explain the plan of salvation. Children need to see and hear God’s Word, so have your Bible opened and marked ahead of time with the appropriate scriptures.
- Avoid abstract phrases like “asking Jesus into your heart.” Instead, use terminology like “becoming a child of God.” Most children still think in concrete terms and need examples that are easy to understand.
- If a child indicates an interest to know more after hearing the gospel presentation, ask questions (such as the following) that require more than a “yes” or “no” answer:
 - » What do you want to talk to me about?
 - » Do you know what sin is?
 - » Can you think of a specific sin (wrong) you have done?
 - » Are you bothered by your sin?

These questions are important. A child who cannot verbalize a sin or does not seem to be repentant about being a sinner may not fully understand his need for a Savior. In this situation, you might list some child-oriented examples of sin and ask him to notice any time he catches himself sinning over the next few days. Give him the *How Can I Become a Child of God?* booklet. Pray with him, then send him on his way. Check back a day or two later, if possible.

- If the child does seem to be sincerely sorry for his sins, you can proceed with more questions like the following:
 - » Why did Jesus come to earth? Why did Jesus need to die? Why did Jesus rise again?

- » Why do you want Jesus to be your Savior?
- » Why should God let you into his family? (Make sure the child understands that salvation is not based on what he does but is a gracious gift of God through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus.)

- Pray for discernment while listening to a child’s answers.
- When a child seems to have a basic understanding of salvation (belief in Jesus’ death and resurrection, admission of and repentance from sin, and a desire to follow the Lord), encourage him to talk to his parents about what it means to become a child of God (if they are followers of Christ). Encourage a child who comes from a non-Christian home to verbalize his understanding to the Lord through prayer. There is no one prayer that should be prayed. Encourage him to ask the Lord to forgive him and help him know he is a child of God.
- Let him see in your words and your face that you are excited that he wants to become a child of God! Read Luke 15:10 to him.
- Some children may not want to make decisions but may want to learn more, to be assured of salvation, or to confess sin. Read Romans 10:9–10 and John 10:28–29 with children who are seeking assurance of their salvation. Encourage them to ask the Lord to help them know they are his children. If a child wants to confess sin, read 1 John 1:9 with him and encourage him to ask the Lord to help him know he is forgiven when he repents.

After

- Review what it means to be a child of God.
 - » How long does God keep his children? (Hebrews 13:5; John 10:28–29)
 - » Can anything separate God from his children? (Romans 8:38–39)
 - » What happens when God’s children sin? (1 John 1:9)
 - » What do children of God believe? (Romans 10:9)
- Explain that Jesus loves his children and wants to spend time with them. Discuss practical ways to grow as a child of God. Provide him with the *Growing Up in God’s Family* booklet and share the following:
 - » Read your Bible and obey what you read. You can start your Bible reading with the short Bible study book you will receive the last day of VBS. (Provide a Bible if he doesn’t have one. Be sure to fill out the presentation page.)
 - » Pray every day. Prayer is talking to God.
 - » Go to a church that believes and teaches the Bible as the Word of God.
 - » Tell others about Jesus. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors how they can become children of God.
- Fill out a Decision Card and turn it in to the VBS director.
- Stay in touch with the child through postcards, visits, or phone calls. Invite him to upcoming church events.



It's a jungle out there! There's adventure around every bend at *The Great Jungle Journey*, where kids are equipped to answer questions about who God is and what his Word teaches about salvation. Excitement galore awaits as you learn how to reconnect the Bible to real life through the Seven C's of History. Children will be encouraged to seek their Creator and Savior!

The Director's Guide and accompanying digital resources contain everything you need to effectively oversee and administer your VBS program. From clip art to customizable forms, and decorating ideas to a countdown calendar, you'll be equipped to lead your travelers to the truth of God's Word!

ISBN 978-1-9844-1222-5



9 781984 412225

\$14.99

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