

VBS 2026

BABIES-2s

Leader Guide

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book is designed to make it easy to hold while caring for and playing with children or to allow it to stand on a counter for quick reference. This format gives you the flexibility to choose from a variety of activities and create a daily schedule that fits the needs of the children in your room. The book is divided into four sections:

LEADER TIPS PAGES 2–4

Begin here for tips on preparation and scheduling, hygiene, security, snacks, and more.

BIBLE CONTENT PAGES 5–24

This is where you'll find Bible stories, Bible Story Plus (short group time for 2s), as well as an overview of the entire week's Bible content. There are 2–3 suggested activities for each Bible story for both younger and older kids. Choose at least one Bible-learning activity each day. Activities for babies–younger 1s are found on the front sides of the pages and activities for older 1s–2s (and young 3s) are on the back.

THEME ACTIVITIES & RECREATION ... PAGES 25–36

Theme-related activities give leaders options for extra activities each day (in addition to the Bible-learning activities). These activities do not necessarily relate to a specific Bible story and may be used on any day, with any Bible story. Choose activities based on the number of leaders in the room, available supplies, and the needs of your children. You may offer as many or as few activities as desired and may repeat activities throughout the day and throughout the week. Activities for babies–younger 1s are grouped together at the beginning of this section (pages 25–30), followed by activities for older 1s–2s (pages 31–36).

MUSIC & MOVEMENT PAGES 37–40

Flip here for song lyrics and tips on using music and movement with babies–2s.

TERMS TO KNOW

Today's Point

Shown on each day's Bible story page, *Today's Point* is the goal for each session. This is what you want kids to know at the end of the day.

Christ Connection and Levels of Biblical Learning

This information is just for leaders, helping you see the big picture of God's plan in these Bible stories and its application to this age group.



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LEADER TIPS

1. Familiarize yourself with the contents of this guide, the *VBS 2026 Babies–2s Leader Pack* (9798384537427), the *VBS 2026 Music for Babies–2s CD* (included in the leader pack), and the *VBS 2026 Keepsake Book* (9798384537007).
2. Print the following items to help with planning and preparation: “Song Sheet” (pack item 36; one per family), “Planning Chart” (one per teacher), “Child Information Sheet” (one per child), “Parent Update” (one per family), “Hygiene Tips,” and “Allergy Alert.” (See information below.)
3. Prepare all leader pack items according to the instructions on each item.
4. Embrace the fact that you are more than a babysitter! The activities in this book are specially designed to help infants through younger 3s learn about Jesus. Choose a few activities to do each day. Don’t feel like you need to prepare countless activities a day to fill the time. Simply choose a few and repeat them throughout the day. Put some away for a while and when you get them back out later, they will be like new to the children. It’s even OK to repeat activities throughout the week—kids LOVE repetition!

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE*

• Activities	80 minutes
• Recreation	20 minutes
• Snack	20 minutes
• Rest Time	30 minutes
• Repeated Activities and Departure	30 minutes

*For young babies, the daily schedule is determined by the needs of each baby. Feeding, diapering, and meeting basic needs are the top priorities.

AUDIO RESOURCES

You can find audio resources on the *VBS 2026 Music for Babies–2s CD* in the leader pack or purchase them for download at lifeway.com.

DIGITAL LEADER HELPS

Printable leader helps such as Leader Devotions, Child Information Sheets, Allergy Alerts, and more can be downloaded using the following instructions:

1. Go to my.lifeway.com/redeem and register or log in.
2. Enter this unique code to download all digital resources:

NHNFHVLYFV6T

3. Follow the directions to download your resources on any compatible device.

THIS CODE CAN BE REDEEMED ONE TIME.

For customer support, please call 866.627.8553.

SAFETY AND SECURITY TIPS

- ❑ Familiarize yourself with your church's policies and observe all safety and security procedures.
- ❑ Conduct background screenings and check references of every volunteer prior to participating in VBS. (Screening procedures for leaders in kids ministry may be found at lifeway.com/backgroundchecks.)
- ❑ Maintain appropriate leader/child ratios (1 leader for every 3 children, with a maximum enrollment of 12, including leaders). Ensure at least 2 leaders are with children at all times.
- ❑ Remove all potential safety and choking hazards from the room. Watch for sharp edges, protruding bolts, and loose items small enough to fit through a paper towel tube (anything that fits is a choking hazard). Cover outlets with safety plugs. Install safety latches on cabinets. Place all cords (including electrical cords and blinds) out of reach. Sit on the floor to get a child's-eye view of the room.
- ❑ Display an "Allergy Alert" outside the room for parents. (See page 2 for instructions to download digital leader helps.) Each day, list everything kids will touch, smell, or taste.
- ❑ Follow your church's sign-in procedures as parents drop off their children. Obtain a completed "Child Information Sheet" and an emergency number from parents. Pass along any special/allergy information to other leaders.
- ❑ Greet and receive children at the door. For smoother transitions and the security of children already in the room, allow only leaders and children to enter the room.
- ❑ When provided by parents in the child's diaper bag, use only those foods, diapers, wipes, and other supplies.
- ❑ Do not leave a baby unattended on a changing table or in a crib with the rails down.
- ❑ Place babies on their backs to sleep unless directed otherwise by a parent.
- ❑ Assign one leader to every two or three children if the group must leave the room. Insist that children hold the leaders' hands when traveling to a new location. Keep an accurate daily attendance list with you as you travel to make sure everyone is accounted for at all times.

HYGIENE AND SNACK TIPS

- ❑ Review guidelines for changing diapers, washing hands, cleaning, and disinfecting on “Hygiene Tips” (see page 2 for digital leader helps).
- ❑ Post the “Hygiene Poster—Diapering and Cleaning” (digital leader helps) above changing tables for easy reference.
- ❑ Post the recipe for disinfecting solution above the sink.
4 cups water + 1 tablespoon chlorine bleach
- ❑ Prepare fresh disinfecting solution each day. Pour it into a spray bottle (clearly labeled) for easy cleaning of toys and cribs. Keep out of reach of children. Display the “Cleaning Poster” (digital leader helps) for easy reference by leaders.
- ❑ Clean toys after each use. Every time a child touches or mouths a toy, remove it from the play area until it is cleaned. Wash toys in a dishpan of warm, soapy water; spray them with the disinfecting solution; and rinse them in clear water. Allow toys to air-dry.
- ❑ Wash hands vigorously for at least 20 seconds before feeding a child, before and after treating a cut, after assisting a child with toileting, and after wiping a child’s nose or mouth (or your own).
- ❑ Post the “Hygiene Tips—Hand-washing” (digital leader helps) near the sink as a reminder for leaders.
- ❑ Clean cribs before and after the first session and after each subsequent session. Wipe crib rails, sides, and mattresses with warm, soapy water and spray with disinfecting solution. When dry, put clean sheets on the mattresses.
- ❑ Use caution when allowing children to taste foods approved by (but not provided by) their parents. The following foods should be avoided as choking hazards or potential allergens:
 - Apples (unless peeled and cut into wafer-thin slices)
 - Grapes (can block a child’s upper airway when served whole)
 - Hard candy and “gummy” candy
 - Hot dogs
 - Marshmallows
 - Nuts (a common allergen)
 - Oranges (seeds and pulp can present choking hazards)
 - Peanut butter (a common allergen)
 - Popcorn
 - Pretzels
 - Raisins
 - Sunflower and watermelon seeds

OVERVIEW OF BIBLE STORIES

DAY 1

Bible Story

Mary and Joseph
Heard Good News

*Matthew 1:18-24;
Luke 1:26-56*

Today's Point

God had a plan
for Jesus.

DAY 2

Bible Story

Jesus Was Born
Luke 2:1-20

Today's Point

Jesus was born.

DAY 3

Bible Story

Jesus Grew Up
Luke 2:41-52

Today's Point

Jesus learned
about God.

DAY 4

Bible Story

Jesus Taught
People
Luke 4:14-22

Today's Point

Jesus told people
what the Bible says.

DAY 5

Bible Story

Jesus Helped
People
Matthew 15:29-39

Today's Point

Jesus helped
people because He
loved them.

Bible Verse: Jesus is God's Son. *Mark 1:11* (paraphrase)

MOTTO

Jesus is the Light of the world.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus came to earth to show
God's love.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING: JESUS

Jesus told people about God.

The Levels of Biblical Learning® is a tool that reflects levels of understanding at each age that follow how God designed children to learn. For more information visit lifeway.com/lobl.

BIBLE CONTENT

WHAT IS BIBLE STORY PLUS?

Bible Story Plus is a short “group time” type experience for older 2s and younger 3s. It may not occur as a scheduled activity time each day. Instead, it may happen more naturally as you sit on the floor and several children join you of their own accord. This may mean you do Bible Story Plus more than once during the day.

Keep in mind the attention span of the preschoolers in your room and keep group activities short and active. Encourage everyone to join you in the activity, but understand that some children may be ready to move on more quickly than others. It is OK for a child to move to another activity in the room while you continue Bible Story Plus with other children.

BIBLE STORY PLUS MAY INCLUDE ...



Telling the
Bible Story



Singing or
Moving to Music



Playing a Game



Joining in a Group
Activity with Friends

DAY 1

MARY AND JOSEPH HEARD GOOD NEWS

Theme Verse: Jesus is God's Son. *Mark 1:11*

Today's Point: God had a plan for Jesus.

BABIES–YOUNGER 1s

—Based on *Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-56*

- God sent an angel to talk to Mary.
- The angel said God chose Mary to have a baby.
- God sent an angel to talk to Joseph in a dream.
- The angel told Joseph about Mary's baby.
- The baby's name would be Jesus.
- The angel said that Jesus would help all people.
- Mary and Joseph did what God told them to do.

OLDER 1s–2s

—Based on *Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-56*

God sent an angel to talk to Mary. The angel said, "God has chosen you to be the mother of a special baby boy. His name will be Jesus."

Mary said, "I will do what God wants me to do." The angel left Mary.

Mary was going to marry a man named Joseph. Joseph was a kind man who did things that were right.

One night, while Joseph was sleeping, God sent an angel in a dream. The angel said, "Mary is going to have a baby. The baby is God's Son. You will name Him Jesus. He will help all people."

When Joseph woke up he remembered his dream. Joseph did what God told him to do. Joseph and Mary were married. They waited for the day Jesus would be born.

BIBLE STORY PLUS

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 1” (pack item 1), “Jesus Name Cards” (pack item 9), round chip canister, bright sheet of paper, scissors, tape

- Cover the chip can with a sheet of bright paper. Write *Jesus is God’s Son* in large letters on the paper. Cut apart the “Jesus Name Cards” (pack item 9) and drop them in the can.
- Sit on the floor and invite children to join you. Pass the canister around the circle and tell the children to pull a card from the can.
- Point to the card and say: “This says, ‘Jesus is God’s Son.’”
- Open the Bible to Matthew 1 and tell the Bible story.
- Show the “Bible Story Picture 1” (pack item 1) and comment: “An angel said Mary and Joseph would have a baby. His name would be Jesus.”
- Sing “Thank You, God.” (Music and Movement Tab)



PUSH AND PULL A BIBLE IN A BOX

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 1” (pack item 1), cardboard box

- Place the Bible and “Bible Story Picture 1” (pack item 1) in a box.
- Sit on the floor with an infant in your lap.
- Push and pull the box back and forth. Mobile infants may enjoy helping.
- Pull the box close and remove the Bible and the picture.
- Open the Bible to Matthew 1 and tell the Bible story.
- Sing “God Had a Plan for Jesus” (Music and Movement Tab).



SHAKE BELLS AND SING



Supplies: Bible, jingle bells, *VBS 2026 Music for Babies–2s CD*; **Extend:** *VBS 2026 Keepsake Book*, chenille stems, washable paints, disposable bowls, tape, painting smocks

- Play “Who Is Jesus?” Shake bells and sing as you move about the room.
- Stop and sit on the floor with an infant in your lap.
- Help him shake the bells as you continue to sing.
- Lay the bells down and open the Bible. Comment: “We have been singing about Jesus.”
- Point to the Bible and say: “God told Mary and Joseph they would have a baby and name Him Jesus.”

EXTEND: Use this Keepsake Book adaptation for babies–younger 1s. Put 3–4 jingle bells on a chenille stem. Form the stem into a circle to make a handle for babies to hold. Secure the ends around the chenille stem and tape them to prevent scratching. Dip the jingle bells into a bowl of paint and assist the baby in dabbing the bells onto pages 2–3 of their Keepsake Books to make bursts of color.

MAKE A COLLAGE

Supplies: Bible, sticky contact paper, shades of blue tissue paper, blue paper, marker, scissors, tape

- Cut the tissue paper in 1- to 2-inch squares. Write *It's A Boy* on strips of blue paper.
- Secure a sheet of contact paper to the wall sticky side out.
- Guide a child to use the tissue paper squares and blue strips to make a collage.
- Talk about parents being happy when they have or adopt a baby.
- Open the Bible and tell the story. Comment: "An angel said Mary and Joseph would have a baby boy."

SING AND WAVE STREAMERS

Supplies: Bible, brightly colored scarves or lengths of ribbon, *VBS 2026 Music for Babies–2s CD*

- Play "Jesus, Jesus" and wave a brightly colored scarf.
- Hand a scarf to a child and show him how to move it up and down.
- Encourage him to sing along with you and wave his scarf.
- Hand scarves to other children as they are interested.
- Say: "Jesus is God's Son. We can praise Jesus when we sing and wave our scarves."

PAINT WITH WATERCOLORS



Supplies: Bible, *VBS 2026 Keepsake Book*, white crayon, watercolors, cup of water, painting smock

- Heavily trace the letters for *Jesus* with the white crayon on pages 2–3 of a child's Keepsake Book.
- Invite a child to paint with watercolors. Point to the letters as they begin to appear when covered with paint.
- Point to the painting and comment: "This says, 'Jesus.' Jesus is God's Son. God had a plan for Jesus."

TIP: If Keepsake Books are unavailable, make a copy of the "Jesus Watercolor Activity" (pack item 31) for each child.



DAY 2

JESUS WAS BORN

Theme Verse: Jesus is God's Son. *Mark 1:11*

Today's Point: Jesus was born.

BABIES–YOUNGER 1s

—Based on *Luke 2:1-20*

- Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem.
- Joseph found a place for Mary to rest.
- Soon Baby Jesus was born.
- Mary wrapped the special baby in soft cloths.
- She laid Him in a manger bed.
- Shepherds heard that Baby Jesus was born.
- The shepherds hurried to see Him and thanked God for Jesus.

OLDER 1s–2s

—Based on *Luke 2:1-20*

Mary, Joseph, and many other people went to Bethlehem. All the places to stay were full. But Joseph found a place where they could rest.

Soon Baby Jesus was born. Mary gently wrapped Him in soft cloths to keep Him warm. She laid Jesus in a manger. A manger was a feeding bin for animals. Mary and Joseph took special care of Baby Jesus.

Shepherds heard that Baby Jesus was born. They hurried to see Him. They thanked God for the special baby. Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds were happy that Jesus was born.

BIBLE STORY PLUS

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 2” (pack item 2), gift bag, tissue paper, baby items (bodysuit, bottle, pacifier, rattle, and so forth)

- Fill the gift bag with baby items.
- Sit on the floor with the bag in front of you. Invite the children to come and see what is in the bag.
- Invite a child to pull the tissue paper from the bag. Allow children to take turns pulling baby items from the bag.
- Name each item removed from the bag and talk about how it will help a baby.
- Show the “Bible Story Picture 2” and comment: “Today we will hear a story from the Bible about a baby boy.”
- Open the Bible to Luke 2 and tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Encourage kids to repeat the Bible verse paraphrase with you. (*Jesus is God’s Son. Mark 1:11*) Repeat the verse softly, loudly, fast, and slowly.



PLAY WITH A MANGER SCENE



Supplies: Bible; “Manger Scene Figures” (pack item 14); 3 clean, empty water bottles; scissors; tape; **Extend:** *VBS 2026 Keepsake Book*, foil star stickers

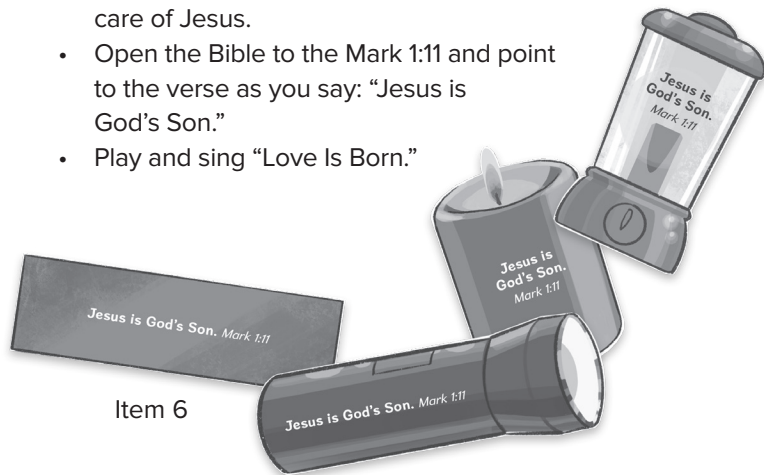
- Cut out “Manger Scene Figures “ (pack item 14) and roll loosely to drop them in a water bottle.
- Tape the lid in place and stand the bottles in a row.
- Name each of the figures as you hand a bottle to an infant to explore.
- Open the Bible to Luke 2 and lay the open Bible on the floor.
- Point to each of the figures as you tell the Bible story.
- Tell how the shepherds hurried to see Baby Jesus and thanked God for Him.
- Say: “We can thank God for Jesus too.”
- Sing “Thank You, God” (Music and Movement Tab).

EXTEND: Provide foil star stickers. Help younger preschoolers add them to the night sky on pages 8–9 of their Keepsake Books.

CARE FOR A BABY DOLL

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Marker” (pack item 6), baby doll, baby blanket, *VBS 2026 Music for Babies–2s CD*

- Insert a “Bible Marker” (pack item 6) at Mark 1. Sit on the floor and place the Bible beside you.
- Pick up an infant and place her in your lap. Show her the blanket. Talk about how it feels soft.
- Lay the blanket on the floor and tell the Bible story as you wrap the doll.
- Help the infant hold and rock the doll.
- Remind her that Mary and Joseph took special care of Jesus.
- Open the Bible to the Mark 1:11 and point to the verse as you say: “Jesus is God’s Son.”
- Play and sing “Love Is Born.”



PLAY WITH A MANGER SCENE



Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 2” (pack item 2), “Manger Scene Figures” (pack item 14), blocks, child-safe manger set, scissors, tape; **Extend:** *VBS 2026 Keepsake Book*, foil star stickers

- Cut out each “Manger Scene Figure” (pack item 14) and tape to a block. Arrange the blocks and manger set on a table.
- Invite a child to sit at the table with you and play with the block figures and manger set. Name each figure.
- Suggest he find both Joseph figures. Ask if he can find any other figures that are the same.
- Open the Bible to Luke 2. Show “Bible Story Picture 2” (pack item 2) and tell the story.

EXTEND: Provide foil star stickers. Guide kids to add them to the night sky on pages 8–9 of their Keepsake Books.

WRAP A DOLL IN A BLANKET

Supplies: Bible, doll, piece of muslin or solid color of fabric

- Sit on the floor and show a child how to swaddle the doll with the fabric.

- Tell the Bible story as you help the child swaddle the baby. Encourage her to rock the doll as you say a simple prayer thanking God for His Son, Jesus.

DRESS LIKE A SHEPHERD



Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 2” (pack item 2), “Bible Times Clothes Pattern” (pack item 37), “Footprint Pattern” (pack item 34), brightly colored paper, fabric, scissors, tape; **Extend:** *VBS 2026 Keepsake Book*, camera

- Make a shepherd outfit using “Bible Times Clothes Pattern” (pack item 37).
- Copy the “Footprint Pattern” (pack item 34) on bright paper. Cut it out and tape it to the floor to make a path.
- Show the Bible times clothes and explain that the shepherds we read about in the Bible might have worn clothes like this.
- Encourage a child to sit on the floor. Open the Bible to Luke 2 and lay it in his lap. Point to the words as you tell the story in your own words.
- Help him put on the clothes and walk on the path while singing “Jesus Was Born” (Music and Movement Tab).

EXTEND: Take a picture of each child wearing the shepherd outfit. Add it to page 6 in his Keepsake Book.

DAY 3

JESUS GREW UP

Theme Verse: Jesus is God's Son. *Mark 1:11*

Today's Point: Jesus learned about God.

BABIES–YOUNGER 1s

—Based on Luke 2:41-52

- Mary and Joseph took Jesus on a special trip.
- When it was time to go back home, Jesus did not leave with His mommy and daddy.
- Mary and Joseph looked everywhere for Jesus.
- They found Him in the temple (church) sitting with the teachers.
- He listened to them and asked questions.
- Everyone who heard Jesus was surprised at how much He knew about God.
- When Mary and Joseph found Him, Mary told Jesus they had been looking for Him.
- Jesus went home with His mommy and daddy.

OLDER 1s–2s

—Based on Luke 2:41-52

Mary and Joseph took Jesus on a special trip every year to Jerusalem. When Jesus was 12 years old, His family went on the trip like usual. When it was time to go back home, Mary and Joseph left Jerusalem, but Jesus stayed there. His mommy and daddy did not know Jesus was not with them.

When Mary and Joseph realized He was not with them, they looked to see if He was with their other friends and family. They found Jesus in the temple (church) sitting with the teachers. He was listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard Jesus was surprised at how much He knew about God.

Mary told Jesus they had been looking for Him. Jesus said, “Didn’t you know I would be in the temple (church) talking about God?” Jesus went home with His mommy and daddy. As Jesus grew older and stronger, He knew more about God.

BIBLE STORY PLUS

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 3” (pack item 3), “Large Jesus Pictures” (pack item 11), flashlight, tape

- Tape “Large Jesus Pictures” (pack item 11) around the room.
- Invite 2s to walk with you and look for pictures of Jesus.
- Show children how to shine the flashlight around the room, not in children’s faces or eyes.
- Suggest they look for the different pictures of Jesus (baby, boy, and man).
- Continue until all kids have had a turn shining the flashlight.
- Sit on the floor and show the “Bible Story Picture 3” (pack item 3).
- Lay the picture on the floor and shine the light on Jesus.
- Say: “Today we are going to hear a story from the Bible about Jesus when He was a boy.”
- Open the Bible to Luke 2 and tell the story in your own words.
- Remind the children that Jesus learned about God and taught people about Him.
- Say a simple prayer thanking God for His Son, Jesus.

LEADER TIP: Tape the lid of the flashlight closed to prevent battery access to toddlers.

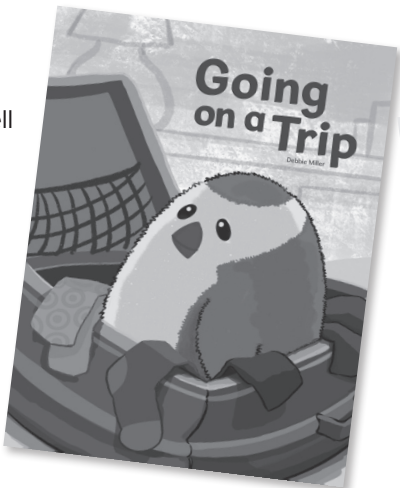


PLAY WITH CARS

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 3” (pack item 3), “Book: *Going on a Trip*” (pack item 19), plastic cars

- Sit at a low table or on the floor with an infant in your lap.
- Assist the infant in rolling a car back and forth.
- Allow mobile infants to crawl and push the car. Talk about riding in a car to go on a trip.
- Read “Book: *Going on a Trip*” (pack item 19) while he plays with the car.
- Show him the “Bible Story Picture 3” (pack item 3).
- Comment: “Mary and Joseph took Jesus on a trip.”
- Open the Bible and tell the Bible story in your own words.

Item 19



LIFT A FLAP



Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 3” (pack item 3), “Lift-a-Flap Cards” (pack item 12), tape; **Extend:** *VBS 2026 Keepsake Book*, yellow washable stamp pad, baby wipes, Allergy Alert (see page 2 for download instructions)

- Tape the “Lift-a-Flap Cards” (pack item 12) and the “Bible Story Picture 3” (pack item 3) along one wall.
- Carry an infant in your arms and walk along the wall, stopping to lift a flap and find a picture of Jesus.
- Encourage older infants to try to lift a flap.
- Point to the picture and tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Say: “Jesus was growing and learning about God.”

EXTEND: Press a baby’s fingertip on a yellow washable stamp pad. Lift her finger and place her fingertip onto a light bulb on page 11 in her *Keepsake Book*. Continue filling all the light bulbs. Comment that her hands and fingers are growing just like Jesus’ did. Wipe her finger clean with a baby wipe.

BUILD A TEMPLE

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 3” (pack item 3), “Bible Marker” (pack item 6), large interlocking blocks

- Place the “Bible Marker” (pack item 6) in the Bible at Mark 1.
- Sit on the floor. Invite a child to come and build with you.
- Show him how to snap the blocks together. Talk about the sizes and colors of the blocks.
- Point to the “Bible Story Picture 3” (pack item 3) and briefly tell the Bible story.
- Suggest building a temple. Comment: “Jesus’ parents found Him in the temple talking to the teachers.”
- Open the Bible to Mark 1:11 and encourage the child to repeat the verse with you.

PACK A SUITCASE

Supplies: Bible, “Book: *Going on a Trip*” (pack item 19), small suitcase, toddler shirt, pants, pajamas, stuffed animal, basket

- Place the clothes and stuffed animal in a basket.
- Open the suitcase and encourage a child to pack the items from the basket into the suitcase.
- Help him fold the clothes. Talk about packing a suitcase and going on a trip.
- Read the “Book: *Going on a Trip*” (pack item 19).

- Point to the Bible and say: “There is a story in the Bible about a time when Jesus’ mommy and daddy took Him on a trip.”
- Briefly tell the Bible story.



PLAY A MATCHING GAME

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 3” (pack item 3), “Small Jesus Pictures” (pack item 10), “Large Jesus Pictures” (pack item 11), 3 pairs of sandals (baby, child, adult), scissors, basket; **Extend:** *VBS 2026 Keepsake Book*, yellow washable stamp pad, baby wipes

- Cut out the “Large Jesus Pictures” (pack item 11) and “Small Jesus Pictures” (pack item 10). Mix the pictures in a basket and guide a child to sort the pictures of Jesus into three groups: baby, child, and man.
- Comment: “As Jesus grew, He knew more about God.”
- Encourage older 2s to decide which pair of sandals goes with which set of pictures.

EXTEND: Press a child’s fingertip on a yellow washable stamp pad. Show her how to place her fingertip onto a light bulb on page 11 in her *Keepsake Book*. Continue filling all the light bulbs. Comment that her hands and feet are growing just like Jesus’ did. Wipe her finger clean with a baby wipe.

DAY 4

JESUS TAUGHT PEOPLE

Theme Verse: Jesus is God's Son. *Mark 1:11*

Today's Point: Jesus told people what the Bible says.

BABIES–YOUNGER 1s

—Based on *Based on Luke 4:14-22*

- Jesus grew up.
- God's power helped Jesus teach people about God.
- One day at church, a church helper handed Jesus the Bible scroll.
- Jesus read it to the people.
- Jesus said, "These words are about Me."
- God sent Jesus to teach people and help people.
- Everyone watched and listened to Jesus.
- The people did not know that Jesus was God's Son.

OLDER 1s–2s

—Based on *Based on Luke 4:14-22*

Jesus grew up. God's Spirit gave Him power to teach people about God. More people started hearing about Jesus. Everyone said good things about Him.

Jesus went to church one day. A church helper handed Him the Bible scroll. Jesus unrolled the scroll to read it to the people. He told the people, "I am the One God sent. These words are about Me." God sent Jesus to teach people and help people. The people wondered about what Jesus said. They did not know that Jesus was God's Son.

BIBLE STORY PLUS

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 4” (pack item 4), “Bible Markers” (pack item 6), “Bible Matching Cards” (pack item 15), *Giant Inflatable Game Cube* (9781087779812).

- Inflate the *Giant Inflatable Game Cube*. Insert “Bible Story Picture 4” (pack item 4), a marker from “Bible Markers” (pack item 6), and one of each “Bible Matching Cards” (pack item 15) in the six pockets.
- Invite 2s to roll the cube back and forth with you.
- After a few minutes of play, sit on the floor with the game cube in your lap.
- Point to the Bible verse and say it. Encourage kids to repeat it with you.
- Point to a Bible card and say: “This is a Bible like we read.” Point to the scroll and say: “This is a Bible like Jesus read. It was called a scroll.”
- Show the “Bible Story Picture 4” (pack item 4).
- Set the cube on its side, allowing the children to see the picture.
- Open the Bible to Luke 4 and tell the story.

If a *Giant Inflatable Game Cube* is unavailable, place each item in a sheet protector and insert in a 3-ring binder so children can flip the pages.



OPEN AND CLOSE A BIBLE

Supplies: *Read to Me Bible* (CSB: 9781433648632; KJV: 9781462792863), “Large Jesus Pictures” (pack item 11), *VBS 2026 Music for Babies–2s CD*

- Insert the “Large Jesus Pictures” (pack item 11) in different locations of the Bible.
- Sit in a rocking chair with an infant and help him open and close the Bible.
- Say: “This is a Bible. We learn about Jesus when we read the Bible.”
- Turn pages of the Bible as you sing “We Love To Learn About Jesus.”
- Show excitement when you find a picture of Jesus. Say a short prayer thanking God for Jesus.
- Continue turning pages and finding more pictures of Jesus.



DAY 4

DROP PICTURES OF JESUS IN A CAN



Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 4” (pack item 4), “Small Jesus Pictures” (pack item 10), round chip can, brightly colored paper, *VBS 2026 Music for Babies–2s CD*; **Extend:** *VBS 2026 Keepsake Book*, “Jesus” stickers

- Cover the outside of a chip can with bright paper.
- Point to the “Bible Story Picture 4” (pack item 4). Tell a baby how we read in the Bible that God sent Jesus to teach people and to help people.
- Show her the pictures of Jesus. Demonstrate how to drop a picture in the can as you say, “Jesus told people what the Bible says.”
- Place your hand over her hand as you help her drop pictures in the can while singing “What Did Jesus Do?”

EXTEND: Use this Keepsake Book adaptation for babies–younger 1s. Provide “Jesus” stickers and assist a child in adding them to pages 14–15 in her Keepsake Book. Comment that Jesus is God’s Son.

Item 11

EXAMINE BIBLES

Supplies: 3–4 different Bibles, “Bible Matching Cards” (pack item 15), basket

- Sit at a low table with a child and play a game with the “Bible Matching Cards” (pack item 15). Place one set of cards in a basket. Arrange the other cards faceup on the table.
- Invite the child to remove a card from the basket and find the match on the table. Continue with all the cards.
- Show him the assortment of Bibles. Talk about the colors and sizes. Mention that they are all Bibles and tell about Jesus.
- Point to the Bible and say: “Jesus told people what the Bible says.”

DECORATE A SCROLL



Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 4” (pack item 4), “Verse Strips” (pack item 35), white bulletin board paper, glue stick, tape, crayons, paper towel tubes, ribbon, scissors; **Extend:** *VBS 2026 Keepsake Book*, round sponge brushes with handles, washable paint, disposable bowls, painting smock

- Copy and cut apart “Verse Strips” (pack item 35).
- Prepare “scrolls” ahead of time by cutting white paper

into 10-by-18-inch pieces and taping each end to a paper towel tube.

- Suggest a child join you at the table. Point to the scroll in “Bible Story Picture 4” (pack item 4) and tell the Bible story.
- Read the verse strip. Encourage the child to glue it to a scroll. Invite her to use the crayons to decorate the scroll. Help her roll the scroll and tie it with a ribbon.

EXTEND: Assist a child in gently dipping a round sponge brush into paint and stamping it on pages 14–15 in her *Keepsake Book*. Comment that Jesus is God’s Son. Continue with multiple colors of paint.

MOVE BALLS IN A MUFFIN PAN

Supplies: Bible, “Small Jesus Pictures” (pack item 10), muffin pan, 12 ball pit balls

- Lay six round “Small Jesus Pictures” (pack item 10) in the bottom of muffin pan cups.
- Place a ball in each of the 12 muffin cups.
- Set the pan on the floor and invite a child to play a game with you. Help him open the Bible to Luke 4 and comment: “Jesus told the people what the Bible says.”
- Tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Show how to pick up the balls to look for matching pictures. Remove pictures as they are matched.

DAY 5

JESUS HELPED PEOPLE

Theme Verse: Jesus is God's Son. *Mark 1:11*

Today's Point: Jesus helped people because He loved them.

BABIES–YOUNGER 1s

—Based on *Matthew 15:29-39*

- Many people came to Jesus because they needed help.
- Jesus helped people be able to talk, walk, and see.
- Jesus knew the people were hungry.
- He wanted to help them.
- Jesus' helpers only had seven loaves of bread and a few small fish.
- Jesus took the food and thanked God for it.
- The people ate and ate until they were full.

OLDER 1s–2s

—Based on *Matthew 15:29-39*

People who could not talk, walk, or see came to Jesus. Jesus made them able to talk, walk, and see.

Jesus told His helpers He wanted to help the people. The people were hungry because they had been with Him three days, and they did not have anything to eat.

Jesus asked His helpers how much food they had. The helpers had seven loaves of bread and a few small fish. Jesus told the people to sit down. He thanked God for the bread and the fish, and the food became enough to feed everyone. There was even more food than the people could eat!

BIBLE STORY PLUS

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Pictures 1–5” (pack items 1–5), beanbag, *VBS 2026 Music for Babies–2s CD*

- Lay “Bible Story Pictures 1–4” (pack items 1–4) in order on the floor. Insert “Bible Story Picture 5” (pack item 5) in the Bible and set it aside.
- Ask children to play a game tossing a beanbag on pictures.
- Hand the beanbag to a child and encourage him to toss it on a picture.
- Point to the picture and remind the children what happened in that Bible story.
- Continue until all children have tossed the beanbag and all stories have been reviewed.
- Sit on the floor with the children and show “Bible Story Picture 5.” Talk about what is happening in the picture.
- Lay the picture on the floor and open the Bible to Matthew 15. Tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Lead the children to clap and sing “Jesus Is the Son of God.”

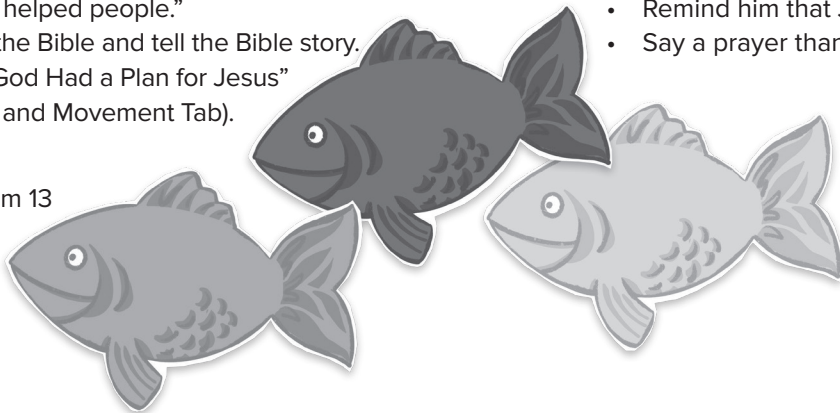


SHARE A SNACK

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 5” (pack item 5), “Fish” (pack item 13), fish-shaped crackers, clear contact plastic, scissors, high-chair tray, Allergy Alert (see page 2 for download instructions)

- Cut out “Fish” (pack item 13) and cover with clear contact plastic. Cut out again. Place three or four “Fish” on a high-chair tray.
- Place an infant in the high chair and drop a few pieces of fish-shaped crackers on the tray.
- Point to and describe the “Fish” as the infant eats her snack.
- Show “Bible Story Picture 5” (pack item 5) and say: “Jesus helped people.”
- Open the Bible and tell the Bible story.
- Sing “God Had a Plan for Jesus” (Music and Movement Tab).

Item 13



PLAY WITH PEOPLE FIGURES

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 5” (pack item 5), tub of toddler pop beads, people figures

- Place the “Bible Story Picture 5” (pack item 5) in the bottom of the tub.
- Add the pop beads to the tub and bury the people figures in the pop beads.
- Sit on the floor with a baby on your lap.
- Guide him to play with the pop beads.
- Pull out the “Bible Story Picture 5” and briefly tell the Bible story.
- Help him find the people figures hidden in the pop beads.
- Remind him that Jesus wanted to help people.
- Say a prayer thanking God for His Son, Jesus.

SHARE A SNACK

Supplies: Bible, napkins, small cups, fish-shaped crackers, Allergy Alert (see page 2 for download instructions)

- Invite children to join you at the table for a snack.
- Hand each child a napkin and small cup.
- Assist each child in pouring a small amount of water in her cup.
- Pour a few fish-shaped crackers on each napkin.
- Mention that the crackers remind you of today's Bible story.
- Say a simple prayer thanking God for the snack.
- Open the Bible to Matthew 15 and briefly tell the story while children eat their crackers.

GO FISHING

Supplies: Bible, "Bible Story Picture 5" (pack item 5), "Fish" (pack item 13), 12-inch dowel rods, string, magnet with a hole in the middle, 12 paper clips, wide tape

- Make a fishing pole by tying one end of string to a dowel rod and a magnet to the other end of the string.
- Add a paper clip to the "nose" of each fish and cover with tape.
- Arrange three or four "Fish" (pack item 13) on the floor and show a child how to "catch" fish.

- Point to "Bible Story Picture 5" (pack item 5) and tell the child that Jesus fed fish to people in our Bible story.
- Remark: "Jesus knew the people were hungry."
- Open the Bible to Matthew 15 and tell the Bible story.

EXTEND: Place all 12 "Fish" on the floor and encourage the children to match fish as they catch them.

PLAY WITH A DOCTOR KIT

Supplies: Bible, "Bible Marker" (pack item 6), toy doctor kit, latex-free adhesive bandages, doll

- Invite a child to join you at the table. Name each item as you remove it from the kit.
- Suggest she play with the doctor kit and the doll. Show her how to unwrap a bandage and put it on the doll. Talk about times she may have gone to a doctor.
- Open the Bible to the "Bible Marker" (pack item 6) in Matthew 15.
- Point to the words and tell her that Jesus helped people who were sick and people who were hungry. Tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Point to the words on the marker and encourage the child to repeat the verse with you.

**LOOKING
FOR RECREATION
IDEAS FOR
OLDER 2s?**

**Check out the other
side of this page!**

WHAT ARE THEME ACTIVITIES?

The activities in this section of the book relate to the overall theme and Bible content of VBS. Unlike the previous “Bible activities,” theme activities do not necessarily relate to a specific Bible story. But they’re not “just for fun.” They are still designed to help you teach Bible truths in ways that are meaningful and applicable to young children. Choose 2–3 of these activities to use in addition to the Bible activities each day. You may choose to use different activities each day or repeat activities throughout the week of VBS. It’s totally up to you! Each page is labeled across the bottom to help you know which activities are designed for babies–younger 1s and which are for older 1s–2s.



THIS ICON INDICATES THAT AN ACTIVITY USES THE

VBS 2026 KEEPSAKE BOOK (9798384537007).

This book makes a great souvenir from the week!
Ideas for using the Keepsake Book are available
on the inside back cover of this book.

THEME ACTIVITIES

RECREATION IDEAS

Walk on a Line

Supplies: Neon tape

- Tape a straight line across the room. Encourage children to take turns walking on the line. Suggest they hop or tiptoe on the line. Challenge older twos by adding a curvy or zigzag line.

Hop in Hula Hoops

Supplies: 4 hula hoops

- Arrange the hoops in a line on the floor. Demonstrate how to step or hop from one hoop to the next. Help younger toddlers by holding their hands. Encourage older toddlers to move through on their own. Rearrange the hoops in a zigzag and encourage them to try again.

Other Quick Ideas

- Color the sidewalk with bright colors of chalk.
- Play rhythm instruments while listening to praise songs about Jesus.
- Dance and move with scarves or lengths of ribbon.
- Sort colored blocks.

Hit a Beach Ball

Supplies: *VBS 2026 Glitter Beach Ball* (9798384539810), binder clip or clothespin

- Inflate a beach ball and hang from the ceiling. Hang it low enough (just slightly over their heads) for a toddler to be able to hit the ball. Stand in a circle and show children how to hit the ball. Help a toddler by placing your hand over his and hit the ball. Use a binder clip or clothespin to pull the string up higher and clip the ball out of the way when the game is over.

Play an Action Game

Supplies: "Action Cube" (pack item 17)

- Assemble the "Action Cube" (pack item 17) according to directions on the item. Invite children to play a game with you. Roll the cube and point to the picture on top and read the action. Demonstrate the action and encourage children to join you. Allow children to take turns rolling the cube. Continue until all children have had a turn to roll the cube.

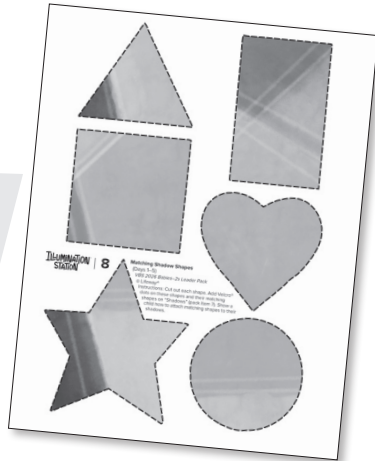
FOLLOW A LIGHT

Supplies: Bible, “Matching Shadow Shapes” (pack item 8), flashlight, scissors, tape

- Tape the shapes to the wall in random places around the room.
- Carry an infant while shining the flashlight on the wall. Assist older infants in holding the flashlight themselves.
- Draw the infant’s attention to the light on the wall.
- Move the light up and down and back and forth, stopping when the light is on a shape.
- Shine the light on the Bible and mention: “Jesus is the Light of the world.”

LEADER TIP: Tape the lid of the flashlight closed to prevent battery access to babies.

Item 8



BLOW BUBBLES



Supplies: Bible, bubble solution, bubble wand, small bowl, washable tempera paint; **Extend:** *VBS 2026 Keepsake Book*, camera, “Bubble Print” (pack item 32), cardstock, washable tempera paint, dish soap, water, shallow container, straw

- Position an infant on the floor or in an infant seat.
- Stand a few feet away and blow bubbles.
- Show enthusiasm while talking about the size of the bubbles and how they shine.
- Sing “Shine Our Light” (Music and Movement Tab).

EXTEND: Take a picture of each child enjoying the bubble fun. Add the photo to page 6 in his Keepsake Book. Older infants may enjoy making bubble prints with you. Follow instructions on “Bubble Print” (pack item 32).

LOOK AT A MOBILE

Supplies: Bible, “Mobile Circles” (pack item 23), scissors, glue, string, hula hoop, tape

- Follow the instructions on the “Mobile Circles” (pack item 23) for making a mobile.
- Prepare and hang the mobile before the first day of VBS. Use the mobile throughout the week.
- Hold an infant up to see the mobile. Show him how the shiny side of each circle shines in the light.
- Point to the day’s Bible story picture on the mobile and briefly tell the story.
- Say a simple prayer thanking God for Jesus.



ROLL A BALL

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Pictures 1–5” (pack items 1–5), light-up ball, paper box lid

- Lay today’s “Bible Story Picture” (pack items 1–5) in the bottom of the box lid.
- Sit on the floor with an infant sitting in your lap.
- Pick up the box lid and roll the ball from side to side causing it to light up.
- Show excitement when the ball lights up.
- Point to the picture and remark: “Jesus is God’s Son. He is the Light of the world.”

EXTEND: Assist an older infant in rolling the ball by placing your hand over his hand to hold the box and move the ball.

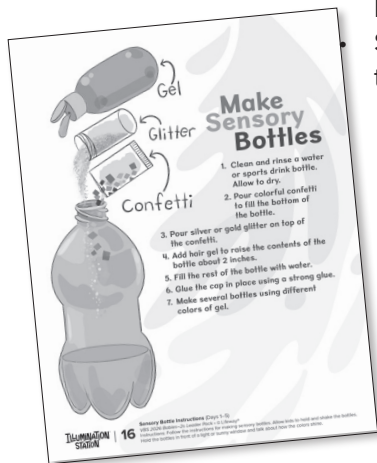


EXPLORE SENSORY BOTTLES

Supplies: Bible, “Sensory Bottle Instructions” (pack item 16), plastic bottle, hair gel, confetti, glitter, strong glue, *VBS 2026 Music for Babies–2s CD*

- Follow the “Sensory Bottle Instructions” (pack item 16) for making a sensory bottle.
- Hold an infant in your lap and shake the bottle. Assist the infant in holding and shaking the bottle.
- Talk about the shining colors in the bottle.
- Open the Bible to today’s Bible story and tell it in your own words.
- Play and sing “In the Bible” as you rock the infant and look at the sensory bottle.

Item 16



LOOK AT A MIRROR

Supplies: Bible, “Large Jesus Pictures” (pack item 11), unbreakable handheld mirror, tape

- Tape a picture of Jesus as a man to the back of the mirror.
- Hold an infant in front of a mirror. Tap the mirror to capture the infant’s attention.
- Comment: “I see you in the mirror.”
- Flip the mirror around and point to the picture of Jesus. Say: “Jesus is God’s Son. God had a plan for Jesus. God has a plan for you.”
- Sit in a rocker and tell the day’s Bible story as you rock the child.

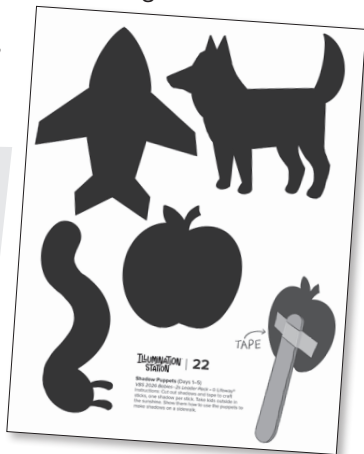
PLAY WITH SHADOW PUPPETS

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Markers” (pack item 6), “Shadow Puppets” (pack item 22), craft sticks, tape

- Prepare the “Shadow Puppets” (pack item 22) as instructed on the item.
- Put a “Bible Marker” (pack item 6) at Mark 1:11.
- Bring the puppets with you when you take kids outside.
- Assist an infant in holding a puppet so it casts a shadow on the ground.
- Say: “Look at the (name of shape) on the ground.”
- Enjoy looking at shadows before moving to the shade to tell the Bible story.
- Remove the “Bible Marker” (pack item 6) from the Bible and repeat the verse.

TIP: If going outside is not an option, find a sunny window inside to provide light for the shadow puppets.

Item 22



EXAMINE TWINKLE LIGHTS



Supplies: Bible, battery-operated twinkling lights, tape;

Extend: *VBS 2026 Keepsake Book*

- Tape a strand of twinkling lights above the diaper changing station.
- Draw attention to the lights when you change an infant’s diaper.
- Hold one hand on the baby and use the other hand to switch the lights on and off.
- Comment: “VBS is fun. We are learning about Jesus. Jesus is the Light of the world.”
- Repeat the motto several times during VBS. (Jesus is the Light of the world.) Infants are building a foundation of knowing who Jesus is. Pray that one day they will know Jesus.

EXTEND: Name the different kinds of lights on page 4 of a child’s Keepsake Page book. Use his finger to trace each line to its matching light.

PAT A WATER MAT

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 1–5” (pack item 1–5), 1- or 2-gallon ziplock bag, blue food color, heavy tape, flashlight

- Fill the ziplock bag $\frac{1}{3}$ full of water. Add a few drops of food color.
- Remove the air from the bag as you seal it shut.
- Lay the day’s “Bible Story Picture” (pack item 1–5) on the floor and place the bag of water on top of the picture.
- Tape the bag to the floor, taping around all four edges of the bag.
- Show an infant how to pat the mat and watch the water move.
- Talk about how the water shines when you shine the flashlight on it.
- Draw attention to the “Bible Story Picture” and tell the Bible story.

ROLL A CUBE

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Picture 1–5” (pack items 1–5), *Giant Inflatable Game Cube* (9781087779812), 5 sheets of brightly colored paper, *VBS 2026 Music for Babies–2s CD*

- Insert a sheet of brightly colored paper into five pockets of the cube and the day’s “Bible Story Picture” in the remaining pocket.
- Sit on the floor with an infant and help him roll the cube.
- Talk about the bright colors of paper as the cube rolls.
- Point to the “Bible Story Picture” in the cube and tell the Bible story.
- Continue rolling as you play “Bright In Me.”

TIP: If a *Giant Inflatable Game Cube* is not available, use painter’s tape to secure the “Bible Story Picture” and papers to each side of a square-shaped cardboard box.

MOVE PAINT IN A BAG

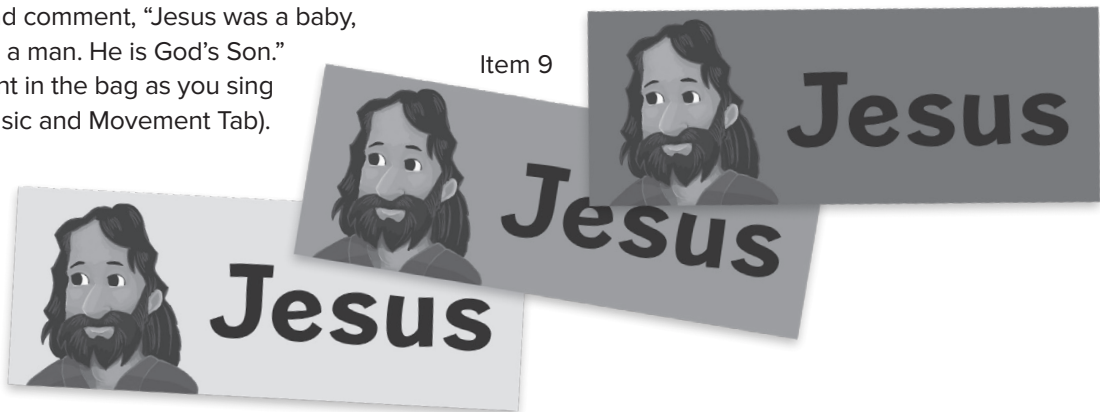
Supplies: Bible, “Large Jesus Pictures” (pack item 11), gallon ziplock bag, neon colored paint, wide clear tape

- Add a cup of paint to the ziplock bag and remove the air as you seal it.
- Place the “Large Jesus Pictures” (pack item 11) on a low table and lay the bag of paint on top.
- Tape the paint bag to the table, taping around all sides.
- Sit with an infant on your lap and guide his hand over the bag to move the paint.
- Play for a few minutes before pushing paint away to reveal a picture of Jesus.
- Point to the picture and comment, “Jesus was a baby, and He grew up to be a man. He is God’s Son.”
- Continue to move paint in the bag as you sing “Thank You, God” (Music and Movement Tab).

TAP A LIGHT

Supplies: Bible, “Jesus Name Cards” (pack item 9), tape, 4 tap lights, wall-safe self-adhesive strips

- Secure a tap light to each wall. Tape a card beside each light.
- Move around the room with an infant in your arms. Stop at a light and help him tap the light to make it shine.
- Point to the card and comment: “This says, ‘Jesus.’ Jesus is the Light of the world.”
- Look for opportunities throughout the week to stop, tap a light, and repeat the VBS motto.



MAKE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Supplies: Bible, cardboard, assorted colors of tissue paper, scissors, clear contact plastic

- Cut an 8-by-8-inch piece of cardboard and cut out a 6-by-6-inch square from the middle. Cut or tear tissue paper into 1-inch squares.
- Cover the window in the cardboard with clear contact plastic.
- Show the preschooler how to stick squares of tissue to the sticky side of the plastic. Guide her to cover the plastic.
- Cover the tissue paper with another sheet of clear contact plastic.
- Hold her “stained glass window” up to light and show her how the colors shine.
- Comment: “These bright shining colors help remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world.”

PAINT WITH JINGLE BELLS

Supplies: Bible, “Color Bursts Activity” (pack item 33), chenille stems, jingle bells, tape, neon colors of washable tempera paint, paper plates, painting smocks, *VBS 2026 Tablecloths* (9798384538189)

- Make a copy of the “Color Bursts Activity” (pack item 33) for each child. Cover the table with a tablecloth.
- Pour small amounts of paint on paper plates. Choose only one color to start.
- Help a child put on a painting smock. Put 3–4 jingle bells on a chenille stem. Form the stem into a circle to make a handle for toddlers to hold. Secure the ends around the chenille stem and tape them to prevent scratching.
- Dip the jingle bells into the paint and show the child how to dab the bells on his paper to make bursts of color.
- Point to and read the verse printed on the page. Remind him that we are learning about Jesus this week.

EXPLORE COLORS WITH A KALEIDOSCOPE

Supplies: Bible, “Kaleidoscope Instructions” (pack item 24), round chip can with a clear lid, mirrored paper, tape, several colors of permanent markers, utility knife

- Follow the “Kaleidoscope Instructions” (pack item 24) for making a kaleidoscope.
- Sit on the floor with a child and show him the kaleidoscope. Say: “This is called a *kaleidoscope*. Can you say that word?”
- Point to all the colors on one end and the hole on the other end.
- Demonstrate how to see lots of color by looking through the hole and turning the can.
- Hand the kaleidoscope to the child and help as needed to turn the can.
- Suggest he move close to the window to see the colors even brighter.

TIP: Consider making a kaleidoscope for each child to take home at the end of VBS.

BLOW BUBBLES

Supplies: Bible, “Bubble Print” (pack item 32), bubble solution, small bowls, straws, washable tempera paint, painting smocks

- Make a copy of the “Bubble Print” (pack item 32) for each child.
- Set up the “Bubble Print” activity on a table outside.
- Enjoy blowing and chasing bubbles with children. Talk about the shiny colors children see in the bubbles.
- Invite a child to make bubble prints on her paper. Pour a small amount of paint in a bowl with bubble solution and stir.
- A leader should use the straw to blow bubbles in the bowl. Show the child how to lay the bubble print paper on the bubbles. Point to the bubbles that are now painted on her paper.
- Point to the words and read the VBS motto from the page.

ROLL A LIGHT-UP BALL

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Pictures 1–5” (pack items 1–5), light up ball

- Sit with a toddler and roll the ball back and forth. Show excitement if the ball lights up.
- Lay today’s “Bible Story Picture” (pack items 1–5) on the floor next to the wall.
- Show a toddler how to roll the ball across the picture and watch the ball light up when it hits the wall.
- Point to the picture and remark: “Jesus is God’s Son. He is the Light of the world.”
- Sing “Shine Our Light” (Music and Movement Tab) as you continue rolling the ball.

READ ON A MAT

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Pictures 1–5” (pack items 1–5) “Book: *Shining Lights*” (pack item 20), other books about Jesus, rest mat; **Extend:** *VBS 2026 Keepsake Book*, crayons

- Insert the day’s “Bible Story Picture” (pack items 1–5) in the Bible and lay the Bible and books on a mat.
- Join a child as she sits on the mat and begins to look at the books.
- Read her a book about Jesus. Show her the “Book: *Shining Lights*” (pack item 20) and guide her to lift the flaps to discover the shining lights. Sing the song on the back cover of the book.
- Remark: “Jesus is the Light of the world.”

EXTEND: Show a child the different types of lights on page 4 of her Keepsake Book. Encourage her to trace each object to its matching picture.

TRACE SHADOWS

Supplies: Bible, bright colors of sidewalk chalk

- Take toddlers to a safe place outside where there is a sunny sidewalk or other concrete surface.
- Point to the shadows on the sidewalk. Encourage children to make poses and see how their shadows change shape.
- Encourage a child to stand still while you trace his shadow. Trace the shadows of other children.
- Encourage children to use chalk to color their shadows.
- Write the motto, *Jesus is the Light of the world*, on the sidewalk. Point to the words and read them to children. Encourage them to repeat the motto.

REVIEW WITH COLORING SHEETS

Supplies: “Bible Story Coloring Pages” (pack items 38–42), crayons

- Copy the day’s “Bible Story Coloring Page” (pack items 38–42) for each child.
- Reinforce the main points of the Bible story as a child colors his page. Ask what he sees in the picture.
- Emphasize Today’s Point as the child works.

LACE CARDS

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Marker” (pack item 6), “Lacing Cards” (pack item 18), scissors, long shoestrings, hole puncher

- Place a “Bible Marker” (pack item 6) at John 8:12.
- Cut apart the “Lacing Cards” (pack item 18). Punch holes where indicated. Tie one end of a long shoestring in a corner hole of each card.
- Guide a child to use the shoestring to lace around the card however he chooses.
- Talk about the different kinds of lights on the cards. Point to the blue card and say: “This card says, ‘Jesus is the Light of the world.’”
- Open the Bible to John 8:12 and say, “The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Light of the world. He told people about God.”
- Play “We Love to Learn About Jesus” as children lace their cards.



MATCH SHADOWS

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Marker” (pack item 6), “Shadows” (pack item 7), “Matching Shadow Shapes” (pack item 8), scissors; **Extend:** basket

- Place a “Bible Marker” (pack item 6) at Mark 1.
- Cut out and arrange the “Shadows” and “Matching Shadow Shapes” (pack items 7 and 8) on the table. Lay out the Bible.
- Guide a child to match the shapes to the black shadows. Comment that bright lights like sunlight make shadows.
- Open the Bible to the marker and repeat the verse. Mention that you have been learning about Jesus at VBS. Say: “Jesus is God’s Son. He is the Light of the world.”

EXTEND: Challenge older 2s by placing the shapes in a basket on the other side of the room. Point to a shape on the shadows and direct her to find the shape in the basket.



Items 7 and 8

BUILD WITH CUPS

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Story Pictures 1–5” (pack items 1–5), tub of assorted brightly colored plastic cups, *VBS 2026 Music for Babies–2s CD*

- Tape today’s “Bible Story Picture” (pack items 1–5) to the side of the tub of cups.
- Invite a child to build with cups. Help him remove several cups from the tub. Talk about the different colors.
- Begin building with the cups. Demonstrate how to stack rows of cups.
- Open the Bible and point to the “Bible Story Picture.” Tell the story as he continues to build.
- Play and sing “Illumination Station.”



LOOK THROUGH A COLOR VIEWER

Supplies: Bible, “Color Viewers” (pack item 25), cellophane, tape, cardboard, scissors

- Make the “Color Viewers” (pack item 25) as instructed on the item.
- Invite a child to look through a viewer.
- Guide him to open the Bible to the Bible story. Suggest he look at the words in the Bible through the viewer as you tell the Bible story.
- Encourage him to look out the window with the viewer.
- Say a simple prayer thanking God for fun at VBS.

PLAY AN ACTION GAME

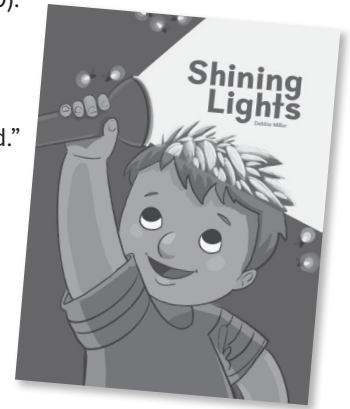
Supplies: “Action Cube” (pack item 17), scissors, tape, tissue paper

- Use the “Action Cube” (pack item 17) to play a game while waiting for parents to pick up their children.
- Assemble the cube as instructed on the pack item.
- Guide kids to roll the cube and follow the instructions on the top of the cube.

READ WITH A FLASHLIGHT

Supplies: Bible, “Bible Marker” (pack item 6), “Book: *Shining Lights*” (pack item 20), “Flashlights” (pack item 26), “Flashlight Scenes” (pack items 27–30), gallon ziplock bags, permanent markers, black paper, small flashlight, *VBS 2026 Music for Babies–2s CD*

- Place a “Bible Marker” (pack item 6) at Mark 1.
- Prepare the “Flashlights” (pack item 26) and “Flashlight Scenes” (pack items 27–30).
- Open the Bible to the marker and guide a child to shine the flashlight on the verse marker. Read “Book: *Shining Lights*” (pack item 20).
- Show the child how to use the paper flashlight to view the scenes.
- Play “Jesus Is the Son of God.” Comment that we can celebrate that Jesus is God’s Son.



1s & 2s

LOVE TO MOVE AND THEY LOVE MUSIC.

Music and movement can be used to teach, to comfort or stimulate a child, and to encourage group participation. Try these ideas for incorporating music and movement into the VBS session:

- Sing or play music and move around the room with an upset child.
- Play musical instruments while waiting for a turn or while waiting for parents.
- March to music to burn energy before a quiet activity. Challenge older 2s and younger 3s to play a simple musical instrument while marching. (Note: This is a difficult skill for most 1s and 2s.)
- Use songs to help teach and reinforce Bible truths.
- Use music in place of conversation. Example: Don't just say the Bible verse, sing it instead!
- Play music quietly in the background as children play.
- Wave fabric streamers to music while leading children to move around the room.
- Play calming music quietly during nap or rest times. Sing simple songs to familiar tunes such as "Mary Had a Little Lamb" (see reverse side).

MUSIC & MOVEMENT

BIBLE-TEACHING SONGS & ACTIVITY SONGS

THANK YOU, GOD

Tune: "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Thank You, God, for Jesus
For Jesus, for Jesus
Thank You, God for Jesus
He is the Son of God

SHINE OUR LIGHT

Tune: "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush"

This is the way we shine our light
Shine our light, shine our light
This is the way we shine our light
We shine our light so brightly

JESUS IS HIS NAME-O

Tune: "BINGO"

God has a Son, His only Son
Jesus is His name-o
J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S
Jesus is His name-o

JESUS WAS BORN

Tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Shepherds heard good news
Jesus had been born
Happily, happily, happily, happily
Shepherds ran to see

GOD HAD A PLAN FOR JESUS

Tune: "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

God had a plan for Jesus
For Jesus, for Jesus
God had a plan for Jesus
He has a plan for me



ILLUMINATION STATION

Illumination Station
Join the celebration
Jesus, He is the Light of the world
Illumination Station
Join the celebration
Jesus, He is the Light of the world

It's time to shine a light on
Who Jesus really is
It's time to build a life on
All that He said and did
Out of the darkness
Into His presence
Jesus shines and never dims

REPEAT CHORUS

It's time to see the truth and
Know how to really live
He shows us what to do when
We choose to follow Him
His light is brightest
His love will guide us
Hear these words that Jesus said

*I am the light of the world
Anyone who follows me
Will never walk in the darkness
But will have the light of life*

*Illumination Station
Join the celebration
Illumination Station
Join the celebration*

REPEAT CHORUS

Words and music by Paul Marino and Jeremy Johnson.
Arranged by Paul Marino and Jeremy Johnson.
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JESUS, JESUS

Jesus, Jesus, I love Jesus
Jesus, Jesus, He loves me

PD words by Nettie Lou Jones. PD music by Ellen Eastis. CCLI #1689900.

WHAT DID JESUS DO

What did Jesus do?
What did Jesus do?
Jesus helped people ev'rywhere
What did Jesus do?
What did Jesus do?
He *loved people ev'rywhere
*Substitute: cared for; talked to

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CCLI #4720010.

LOVE IS BORN

Love is born in a humble place
Love is born in a special way
Love is born on a bed of hay
Love is born
Love is born in our hearts today
Love is born such amazing grace
Love is born so we celebrate
Love is born

Jesus, Jesus
He came for us
Love is born
Jesus, Jesus
He came for us
Love is born

REPEAT ALL

Hallelujah
To the King of kings
Hallelujah
With the angels sing
Hallelujah
To the one and only

REPEAT CHORUS

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CCLI #7049491.

WHO IS JESUS?

Who is Jesus?
I'll tell you who He is
Who is Jesus?
I'll tell you who He is

He's the perfect, powerful
Promised Son of God
That's who Jesus is

REPEAT ALL

*He's all these things
And He still loves me
All these things
And He still loves me*

Who is Jesus?
I'll tell you who He is
Who is Jesus?
I'll tell you who He is

He's the perfect, powerful
Promised Son of God
That's who Jesus is
That's who Jesus is

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WE LOVE TO LEARN ABOUT JESUS

We love to learn about Jesus
We love to learn about Jesus
We love to learn about Jesus
Let's open up the Bible
We love to learn about Jesus
We love to learn about Jesus
We love to learn about Jesus
Let's open up the Bible

Clap your hands (*Clap, clap, clap*)
Jump up and down (*Jump, jump, jump*)
Spin all round (*Spin, spin, spin*)
Spin around and round and round and round
and round.

We love to learn about Jesus
We love to learn about Jesus
We love to learn about Jesus
Let's open up the Bible
We love to talk about Jesus
We love to talk about Jesus
We love to talk about Jesus
Let's open up the Bible and learn

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BRIGHT IN ME

I want to tell people
All about Jesus
All about what He has done for me
I want to tell people
All about Jesus
Oh how I want them to see

Jesus
Light of the world
He is all I need
Jesus
I want His light to shine bright in me

I want to tell people
All about Jesus
All about what He has done for me
I want to tell people
All about Jesus
Oh how I want them to see

REPEAT CHORUS 2X

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JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Jesus is the Son of God
His one and only Son
Jesus is the Son of God
He came for everyone

God loved us
So much
He wanted us to see
That Jesus
Yes, Jesus
Cares for you and me

REPEAT

God loved us
So much
He wanted us to see
That Jesus
Yes, Jesus
Cares for you and me

Jesus is the Son of God
His one and only Son
Jesus is the Son of God
He came for everyone

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CCLI #7110346.

IN THE BIBLE

Every word of God is true
Written down for me and you
It's in the Bible
Everything He said and did
Teaches us how we should live
It's in the Bible

It's all about what God wants us to know
It's all about the love that Jesus shows
It's all about Him helping us to grow
All we need to know
It's in the Bible

Every word of God is true
Written down for me and you
It's in the Bible
Everything He said and did
Teaches us how we should live
It's in the Bible

REPEAT CHORUS 2X

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CONTINUE THE CONNECTION AT HOME AND WITH PARENTS

Most, if not all, of the babies, 1s, and 2s who attend VBS will be children whose parents or grandparents are working in VBS. However, it is not uncommon in some VBS settings for very young children to attend with older siblings or even parents. Providing quality care and Bible teaching for these children can be critical in reaching their families.

Print and study “Sharing the Gospel with Parents” to prepare yourself for sharing the gospel with parents and others. (See page 2 for download instructions for digital leader helps.)

Greet parents at the door each day when they come to pick up their children. Share a positive word about their child’s VBS experience. Invite parents to your church’s VBS celebration and other church activities.

Send home a “Parent Update” each day, along with each child’s personal items and diaper bag. This will help parents know what their children learned about during VBS.

Send postcards and make personal visits to families that visited your church during VBS.

Complete a Keepsake Book for each child and send it home (or personally deliver to the child’s home) at the end of VBS as a souvenir of his VBS experience.

KEEPSAKE BOOK

(9798384537007)

Many young parents document their child’s life with scrapbooks and photos. Why not give parents a keepsake book documenting the things their children did and learned at VBS? When you make VBS personal for their child, parents will see how much you care.

Each page in the Keepsake Book is part of an activity in this leader guide. Look for activities marked with this icon:



Work on the books throughout VBS and send them home with children on the last day. This will be a treasured gift for parents!



JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

Culture claims to know about Jesus, but many people are in the dark about who He really is. Some might see Jesus as just a person from history or a good man or a good teacher—but He is more than that! Illumination Station VBS will shine a light on the truth of who Jesus really is. Babies will learn that Jesus is God’s Son. Jesus told people about God and helped people because He loved them.

Lifeway® VBS

lifeway.com/vbs