

ILLUMINATION  
STATION JOHN 8:12



VBS 2026

\* GLOW-IN-THE-DARK \*

# Missions

3s—KINDERGARTEN

Missions Rotation Leader Guide  
with DVD

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## VBS 2026 3s–KINDERGARTEN MISSIONS ROTATION GUIDE

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# WELCOME

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! This summer, VBS will shine a light on the truth of who Jesus really is.

Meet us at Illumination Station™ for the brightest week of the year. Focus on Jesus at Spotlight Bible Study and bask in the colorful glow of sunlight streaming in at Suncatcher Recreation. Twirl in the glittering refracted light of Mirror Ball Music and pass through strands of twinkling lights on the way to Kaleidoscope Crafts. Turn it all the way up for Neon Snacks and bring it all the way down for Glow-in-the-dark Missions. Kids will explore all the ways light brightens, illuminates, reflects, and reveals while discovering that Jesus is the light who brings hope to a dark world! Like the disciples, kids will be challenged to answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" They will discover it's not a matter of opinion. Jesus is who Scripture says He is—the perfect, proven, and powerful Son of God.

Light up your summer at Illumination Station and shine a light on Jesus!

## VIDEO SUMMARIES

A short video segment will be featured each day. If you prefer, you may tell the missions story in your own words rather than show the video.

## ACCESS YOUR REDEMPTION FILES ONLINE

You can find video resources on the DVD in the front of this book or download them using the following instructions:

- Go to [my.lifeway.com/redeem](http://my.lifeway.com/redeem) and register or log in.
- Enter this unique code to download all DVD items: **WJ8TYL9MP9QK**.
- Follow the directions to download your resources on any compatible device.

This code can be redeemed one time.

Printable leader helps (such as the Allergy Alert) can be downloaded by visiting [vbs.lifeway.com](http://vbs.lifeway.com) and selecting the "Resources" tab.

For customer support, please call 866.627.8553.

## ROOM DECORATION TIPS

As you determine how to set up your missions area, keep the focal wall simple with teaching items to help eliminate distractions while teaching biblical truths.

- Place a TV and DVD player to one side of the focal wall or use another method of viewing the digital version of the videos.
- Cover tables with the *VBS 2026 Tablecloths* (9798384538189).
- Hang *VBS 2026 Whirleys* (9798384538233) from the ceiling.
- Attach the Missions *VBS 2026 Rotation Sign* (9798384538615) near the entrance of the room.
- Display posters from the *VBS 2026 Visual Pack* (9798384538585) on walls.
- See the *VBS 2026 Decorating Made Easy* (9798384536987) guide for more decorating ideas.
- Purchase decorating resources and accessories online at [lifeway.com/vbs](http://lifeway.com/vbs) or by calling 1.800.458.2772.

## GET STARTED!

- Study the Bible story, Bible verse, and Today's Point for each day.
- Adjust teaching plans to meet the needs of your children. Be mindful of kids with special needs, those who have just turned three, and older kindergartners who can be six and even seven years of age.
- Coordinate your schedule with other leaders. (This may be predetermined by your VBS Director.)
- Preview the video segments or practice telling the stories in your own words.
- Copy and prepare the reproducible items.
- Locate, borrow, or purchase needed supplies. Consider labeling a container for each day and placing collected supplies in the appropriate containers.
- Arrange the room each day for the activities you have prepared. Think about the flow of kids in and out of the room and where the videos will be shown. Remove distractions and unnecessary furniture to allow plenty of space to move.
- Pray for the children who will attend VBS, their families, and their leaders.

# MISSION PROJECT AND TIPS

At Illumination Station, kids are discovering that Jesus is the Light of the world. Kids will learn about ways they can be a light for Jesus within their own communities. This year's mission project will help boys and girls in the foster care system. VBS kids will be encouraged to donate items to help the agencies that care for these vulnerable kids. Boys and girls will be asked to bring new toys, books, socks, underwear, stuffed animals, toiletries, or small duffle bags that will be donated to a local faith-based child welfare agency that acts as a liaison between the foster care system and families. Kids at VBS will also design birthday cards and make other items to be given to these kids who are separated from their families. Boys and girls will also be encouraged to pray for these kids even after VBS is over.

- Select someone to coordinate the mission project. Pick and choose how much to complete of the mission project each day based on your time.
- Contact a local faith-based organization or child welfare agency to discover what specific items would best help them as they serve kids in foster care.
- Communicate specifically with parents and your church what items you will be collecting.
- Invite your entire church to become involved in the mission project and discuss with your pastor and VBS Director the best way to present the project to the church.
- Be sensitive to the makeup of children in your care as you describe the mission project. Avoid using terms like “foster kids” and “foster care” when speaking to children. Consider using alternate terms such as children who have been separated from their families or children going through sad times.

If your church collects a VBS offering to support missionaries like the featured NAMB and IMB missionaries, visit [www.imb.org/vbs](http://www.imb.org/vbs) or [www.namb.net/vbs](http://www.namb.net/vbs) for ways to give.



# AT A GLANCE

**JESUS SAID, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD."**

**JOHN 8:12**  
*(paraphrase)*

## DAY 1

### JESUS IS GOD'S PROMISED SON

#### JESUS ASKED WHO PEOPLE THOUGHT HE WAS

*Matthew 16:13-20*

Jesus asked His disciples (helpers) a question.

"Who do people say I am?"  
Jesus asked.

The disciples told Jesus that people had different ideas about who Jesus was.

Jesus asked His disciples, "But who do you say that I am?"

Peter, one of the disciples, answered, "You are God's Son."

Jesus said Peter could only know this because God had helped Peter know. Jesus said that Peter would tell people about Jesus.

#### TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is God's promised Son.

#### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

- Play "Same and Different"
- Roll a Globe
- Pretend to Make Food and Share a Snack
- Mission Project

## DAY 2

### JESUS IS GOD'S PERFECT SON

#### THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

*Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11; John 1:29-34*

John the Baptist was baptizing people who had chosen to follow God.

Jesus went to see John the Baptist at the Jordan River. Jesus told John that He wanted to be baptized, but John didn't think he should baptize Jesus. John was confused. He baptized people who disobeyed God, but Jesus never disobeyed God!

Jesus said, "Let Me be baptized. God says this is right." So John baptized Jesus.

When Jesus came up out of the water, God's voice came from heaven. "This is My Son," the voice said. "I love Him, and I am very pleased with Him!"

#### TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is God's perfect Son.

#### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

- Make an Animal Park
- Decorate a Prayer Reminder
- Feed People and Take Care of Children
- Mission Project

## DAY 3

### JESUS IS THE POWERFUL SON OF GOD

#### JESUS PERFORMED MIRACLES

*Matthew 15:29–39*

Jesus went up a mountain. A lot of people came to see Him, including sick people. Since Jesus is God's Son, He could make the people well—and He did!

Jesus felt bad for the people. They had been there for three days, and they didn't have anything to eat. Jesus didn't want to send them away hungry.

Jesus asked the disciples how many loaves of bread they had. The disciples told Jesus they only had 7 loaves of bread and a few small fish.

Jesus took the bread and the fish. Jesus thanked God for them and broke them into pieces. The disciples gave the food to the people. Even though Jesus started with very little food, there was enough for everyone to eat. There were 7 large baskets of leftovers! Jesus fed 4,000 men plus women and children that day.

#### TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is the powerful Son of God.

#### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

- Create a Village
- Search for Goats
- Shine the Light
- Mission Project

## DAY 4

### JESUS IS THE PROVEN SON OF GOD

#### JESUS DIED AND ROSE TO LIFE

*Mark 14:43–16:7*

Jesus did many things that showed He is the powerful Son of God—things no one else could do. Some people did not like Jesus because of the things He was doing and teaching. They did not believe that Jesus was God's Son, so they wanted to stop Him.

Jesus was arrested, put on trial, and nailed to a cross. When Jesus died, a Roman army officer who had been watching Jesus said, "This man really was God's Son!"

After Jesus died, His body was placed in a tomb. Three days later, some women went to the tomb. When they got there, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. They went in but did not find Jesus' body. Instead, there was a man dressed in a white robe who said, "Don't be afraid. Jesus is not here. He is alive!"

#### TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is alive!

#### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

- Look at a United States Map
- Build Houses
- Find the Church
- Mission Project

## DAY 5

### JESUS IS GOD'S PLAN FOR FORGIVENESS

#### PETER PREACHED ABOUT JESUS

*Acts 2*

Followers of Jesus were all together in one place for a celebration. While they were there, God helped them speak in many different languages so they could tell people about Jesus.

Peter and the other disciples stood up in front of the crowd. Peter reminded the people that they saw Jesus do things no one else could do. These things proved that Jesus is God's Son. But just as God knew would happen, some people did not like Jesus and killed Him. Peter reminded the people that Jesus came back to life.

As the people listened to Peter, they were sad. They knew they had disobeyed God (sinned). The people were sorry they had disobeyed God. They wanted to do what God wanted them to do. That day, about 3,000 people decided to become followers of Jesus!

#### TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is God's plan for forgiveness.

#### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

- Set Up a Church and Restaurant
- Play Hot and Cold
- Plant Grass Seeds
- Mission Project

# DAY 1

# JESUS IS GOD'S PROMISED SON



## JESUS ASKED WHO PEOPLE THOUGHT HE WAS

*Matthew 16:13-20*

Jesus asked His disciples (helpers) a question.

“Who do people say I am?” Jesus asked.

The disciples told Jesus that people had different ideas about who Jesus was.

Jesus asked His disciples, “But who do you say that I am?”

Peter, one of the disciples, answered, “You are God’s Son.”

Jesus said Peter could only know this because God had helped Peter know. Jesus said that Peter would tell people about Jesus.



### TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is God's promised Son.

### WELCOME

- Preschool Missions Video
- Video playing device

### WELCOME

- Welcome kids to Glow-in-the-dark Missions.
- Say: “Missionaries tell people about Jesus. Today we are going to talk about a family who moved all the way to Kenya in East Africa to help people learn about Jesus. They are the Steelman family.”
- Guide kids to learn to say *jambo rafiki*, explaining that it means, “Hello, friend!”
- Play the Day 1 video or tell the missions story.

### MISSIONARY STORY — WELCOME TO KENYA

The Steelman family lives in Nairobi, Kenya. Kenya is a country in East Africa. It's only been its own country for about 60 years after gaining independence from England. In Kenya many people live in small villages, but Kenya also has huge cities like Nairobi with over 6 million people. Nairobi is growing larger with more people every year.

Nairobi may look like a city you've seen before. There are apartment buildings, highways, malls, restaurants—even KFC® and Burger King®. Kids in villages and cities love to laugh, to play, and to go to school just like you.

A popular food in Kenya is *ugali*. It looks like mashed potatoes, but it's made from corn. No utensils are needed to eat it. People eat it with their hands. Kenyans love grilled meat and a fried sweet bread called *mandazi*, but they also have cheeseburgers and chicken nuggets.

While Kenya may be on the other side of the world from where you live, the people there are not so different from you. One big way we are all the same is that we all need to hear the good news—that Jesus is the Light of the world. That's why the Steelmans moved all the way across the world to live in Kenya as Send Relief missionaries. They want to make sure the whole world knows what you learned today: Who Jesus is? He is the Messiah, the promised Son of God. Jesus loves you no matter who or where you are.

## PLAY “SAME AND DIFFERENT”

- Mention that some things in Kenya are the same as things where you live.
- Give each child an index card.
- Say: “I am going to name some things people in Kenya do, eat, or have. Show the *S* side of your card if it is the same where we live. Show the *D* side if it is different.
- Make statements like, “In Kenya, some people live in big cities.” “Children in Kenya go to school.” “People in Kenya eat ugali.” “People in Kenya like to laugh and play,” and so forth. Continue making statements as long as kids are interested. Be sure to end with “People in Kenya need to hear the good news that Jesus is God’s promised Son.”

## ROLL A GLOBE

- Display the “Map of Africa” and point to Kenya.
- Show kids where Africa is located on the inflatable globe. Put a sticky dot on Kenya on the globe and a sticky dot where your church is located.
- Direct boys and girls to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Show the dot placed on Kenya and the dot placed on the location of your church.
- Roll the ball to a child and prompt that child to find Kenya on the globe.
- Encourage him to tell something he learned about Kenya from the video and then roll the globe to someone else.
- Guide kids to continue rolling the globe.
- Ask each child a different question. For example: “What is the name of the family who went to Kenya?” “What is something people in Kenya eat that you eat?” and so forth. Finish with, “Who is God’s Son?” and “Who needs to hear the good news that Jesus loves them?”

## PRETEND TO MAKE FOOD AND SHARE A SNACK

- Guide kids to sit at the table and give each child a small lump of play dough. Recall some of the foods people eat in Kenya (chicken nuggets, ugali, hamburgers, etc.).
- Suggest kids use the play dough to make food.
- Mention that some of the food people in Kenya eat is the same as the food we eat, but some of the food is different.
- Collect the play dough. Guide kids to wash their hands and return to the table.
- Say: “Donut holes are a little bit like the sweet bread called *mandazi* that people in Kenya eat.”
- Thank God for the snack. Distribute donut holes and enjoy them together.

## MISSION PROJECT

- Ask: “What are ways you celebrate birthdays in your family?” (Allow for responses.)
- Say: “Celebrating birthdays is fun. There’s usually cake and presents. Your family might eat your favorite meal or go to a fun restaurant. There might even be a party.”
- Explain that the missionaries kids are learning about this week are working to care for kids who are going through some really sad times. There are kids in your area who may be going through some sad times too.
- Say: “We are going to get to help these boys and girls feel special and loved on their birthdays by decorating birthday cards and gift bags, making bracelets for them, and giving them a little book that will help them understand how much Jesus loves them.”
- Give children a “Mission Project Letter” to take home. Mention specific items kids can bring that will be useful to your partnering organization.

## PRAY

Pray for the Steelman family. Thank God the Steelmans were willing to go to Kenya to help people learn that Jesus loves them. Ask God to guide the Steelmans in their work.

### PLAY “SAME AND DIFFERENT”

- Index cards
- Markers
- Write an *S* on one side of an index card and a *D* on the other side. Use different color markers for each letter. Make one card for each child.

### ROLL A GLOBE

- “Map of Africa” (p. 18)
- Copy paper
- Inflatable globe
- Dot stickers
- Copy the “Map of Africa.”

### PRETEND TO MAKE FOOD AND SHARE A SNACK

- Allergy Alert (see p. 2 for download instructions)
- Donut holes
- Napkins
- Play dough
- Post an allergy alert for eating donut holes and handling play dough.

### MISSION PROJECT

- “Mission Project Letter” (p. 17)
- Copy the “Mission Project Letter” (1 per child). Make extra copies for additional kids who may come later in the week.



## DAY 2

# JESUS IS GOD'S PERFECT SON



### THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

*Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11; John 1:29-34*

John the Baptist was baptizing people who had chosen to follow God.

Jesus went to see John the Baptist at the Jordan River. Jesus told John that He wanted to be baptized, but John didn't think he should baptize Jesus. John was confused. He baptized people who disobeyed God, but Jesus never disobeyed God!

Jesus said, "Let Me be baptized. God says this is right." So John baptized Jesus.

When Jesus came up out of the water, God's voice came from heaven. "This is My Son," the voice said. "I love Him, and I am very pleased with Him!"



### TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is God's perfect Son.

### WELCOME

- Preschool Missions Video
- Video playing device
- Box for collecting mission project items

### WELCOME

- Welcome kids back to Glow-in-the-dark Missions.
- Say: "Remember that missionaries tell people about Jesus. Yesterday we started learning about the Steelman family who moved to Kenya in East Africa to help people learn about Jesus."
- Say: "Jambo rafiki!"
- Challenge kids to remember what "jambo rafiki" means (*hello, friend*). Encourage kids to say, "Jambo rafiki" to each other.
- Play the Day 2 video or tell the missions story.

### MISSIONARY STORY – MEET THE STEELMANS

Naomi and Kylie live in Nairobi, Kenya with their mom, dad, and puppy named Oreo. They live in an area with other missionary families. It's like a neighborhood where they can run around and have fun. They play basketball, soccer, read, ride their bikes, and go to school—just like you. But sometimes monkeys are a problem at their school, and they have to stay in the classrooms a little longer until the monkeys leave! Two of the girls' favorite things to do are swimming and cooking. Another fun thing to do in Kenya is to visit one of the many national parks. It's like a zoo without cages. At Nairobi National Park they see lions, rhinos, zebras, and giraffes. It's amazing!

The greatest thing the Steelman sisters get to do is tell people the good news of Jesus. Their family went to Kenya to follow in Jesus' footsteps and be light to Kenyan people the same way Jesus is the Light to the whole world. They do things like feed people who are hungry and take care of kids who don't have families. Most importantly they tell people that even when the world is tough, Jesus loves them and wants to be the light in their life. That's true for you too. Jesus wants to be the light in your life and wants for you to follow Him, but you don't have to go all the way to Kenya to follow God's plan for you. You can do that right where you live!

## MAKE AN ANIMAL PARK

- Recall that one thing the Steelman family likes to do is go look for animals in the Nairobi National Park.
- Mention to children that they can make an animal park. Show boys and girls how to lay the green and brown paper out in a large area to represent the park.
- Prompt kids to set the animal figures up on the paper.
- Encourage kids to add people figures and toy cars to play out looking for animals at the park.
- Say: “The Steelman family likes to visit the Nairobi National Park, but most of all they like to help people and tell them about Jesus.”

## DECORATE A PRAYER REMINDER

- Recall the people in the Steelman family: Clay and Lydia and their daughters Kylie and Naomi.
- Give each child a “Map of Africa.” Guide kids to color the country of Kenya.
- Prompt boys and girls to draw the Steelman family around the map of Africa.
- Suggest preschoolers take the map home and put it somewhere in their rooms.
- Say: “When you see this map, it can remind you to pray for the Steelman family.”

## FEED PEOPLE AND TAKE CARE OF CHILDREN

- Recall that the Steelman family helps feed people who are hungry.
- Show kids the food items in the basket.
- State that the Steelmans also take care of kids who do not have families.
- Encourage boys and girls to examine the things in the second basket.
- Say: “Children who don’t have families to live with might need blankets, clothes, food, books, and toys.”
- Choose a child to hold each baby doll.
- Encourage the other children to pretend to be missionaries and give food and other supplies to the babies.
- Suggest the missionaries say, “Jesus is God’s Son;” “Jesus loves you;” and so on as they hand out food and supplies.
- Instruct children to return the food and other items to the baskets when they finish playing.

## MISSION PROJECT

- Say: “Birthdays are a fun time for boys and girls to know and feel how special they are not only to the people around them but also to God. That’s why we’re collecting new toys and books to be donated to kids who need a little extra help.”
- Distribute a white gift bag to each child. Offer markers, stickers, or other art materials. Encourage children to decorate gift bags that will later hold gifts for kids to enjoy on their birthdays.

## PRAY

Pray for the Steelman family. Pray that God will guide them as they feed hungry people and help children who don’t have families. Pray that as the Steelman family demonstrates Jesus’ love, the Kenyan people will understand that Jesus loves them.

### MAKE AN ANIMAL PARK

- Animal figures like lions, leopards, zebras, and giraffes
- People figures
- Toy cars
- Green and light brown paper

### DECORATE A PRAYER REMINDER

- “Map of Africa” (p. 18)
- Cardstock
- Markers
- Copy the “Map of Africa” on cardstock (1 per child).

### FEED PEOPLE AND TAKE CARE OF CHILDREN

- Baby dolls
- Play food—fruit, vegetables, bread, and so on
- Books, blankets, shoes, T-shirts, small toys
- Two baskets
- Place the food in one basket and the other items in the second basket.

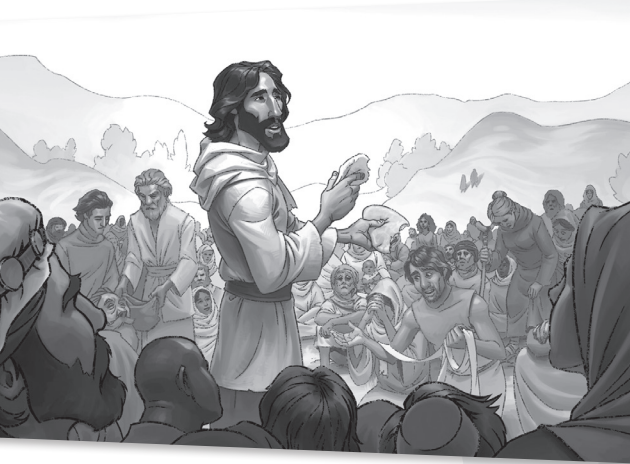
### MISSION PROJECT

- White gift bags with handles (1 per child)
- Markers
- Birthday stickers
- VBS 2026 Theme Stickers* (9798384538158)
- VBS 2026 Sticky Foam Shapes* (9798384538134)
- “Mission Project Letter” (p. 17)
- Distribute a “Mission Project Letter” to any child attending the first time.



## DAY 3

# JESUS IS THE POWERFUL SON OF GOD



## JESUS PERFORMED MIRACLES

*Matthew 15:29–39*

Jesus went up a mountain. A lot of people came to see Him, including sick people. Since Jesus is God’s Son, He could make the people well—and He did!

Jesus felt bad for the people. They had been there for three days, and they didn’t have anything to eat. Jesus didn’t want to send them away hungry.

Jesus asked the disciples how many loaves of bread they had. The disciples told Jesus they only had 7 loaves of bread and a few small fish.

Jesus took the bread and the fish. Jesus thanked God for them and broke them into pieces. The disciples gave the food to the people. Even though Jesus started with very little food, there was enough for everyone to eat. There were 7 large baskets of leftovers! Jesus fed 4,000 men plus women and children that day.



### TODAY’S POINT

Jesus is the powerful Son of God.

### WELCOME

- Preschool Missions Video
- Video playing device
- Box for collecting mission project items

### WELCOME

- Welcome kids back to Glow-in-the-dark Missions.
- Say: “Missionaries often travel to faraway places to tell people about Jesus. We have been hearing about the Steelman family who moved to Kenya in East Africa to help people learn about Jesus.”
- Say: “Jambo rafiki!”
- Challenge kids to remember what “jambo rafiki” means (*hello, friend*). Encourage kids to say, “Jambo rafiki” to each other.
- Play the Day 3 video or tell the missions story.

### MISSIONARY STORY — THE GOAT PROJECT

In the small villages of Kenya, there are no highways, no tall buildings, and no Burger Kings. Food can be harder to have in the village, so Send Relief and the Steelmans give families goats. Goats can eat almost anything. They are easy to take care of, and they can give families milk and meat. Goats can change a family’s life. The goats make milk to help keep people healthy. They can also have baby goats that the families can sell to pay for school fees. Eventually the goats can provide meat for families to eat.

One of the greatest things about the goats is they can live through just about anything. While it is great that the goats give people milk, food, and a way to make additional money, what they really give is hope—a hope that there will be food on the table, a hope that they can pay for their children to go to school, and a hope that tomorrow will be OK.

Jesus gives us hope, too. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” Jesus also wants us to be lights in this world and shine for Him. That’s why the goat project was started. It was one way the Steelman family can shine for Jesus.

You can do the same thing where you are. Jesus wants everyone to know about His love for them. He wants to use you to show people that He loves them.

## CREATE A VILLAGE

- Play the part of today's video that shows the village.
- Encourage kids to work together to create a village on the paper.
- Prompt boys and girls to tear or cut paper to make homes for the village. Encourage kids to glue the homes to the butcher paper.
- Suggest preschoolers use markers to draw the sun and clouds. Guide kids to draw trees, grass, and other things goats might eat.
- Guide each child to color one or two goats and glue them to the village.
- Recall that the Steelmans work to provide goats to families.
- Mention that Jesus performed a miracle that provided food to 4,000 people. Note that the Steelmans help people in the villages of Kenya get goats. The people can use the goats for food and to get money.
- Post the village collage on the wall outside the room.

## SEARCH FOR GOATS

- Suggest kids use the sand toys to find the goats in the sand.
- Recall that there was a terrible drought in Kenya which meant there was no rain to help the plants grow.
- Ask: "Why are goats good animals to have when there are not many plants growing?"  
(*They can eat almost anything and are easy to take care of.*)
- Guide boys and girls to talk about how the goats help the people in the villages.  
(*They provide milk and meat. They help the villagers get money to pay for school.*)
- State: "Having goats gives the people hope."

## SHINE THE LIGHT

- Gather children. Say: "We have talked about things the Steelman family does to help people in Kenya know that Jesus is the Light of the world."
- Shine the flashlight on a baby doll. Ask kids how the Steelman family cares for children.  
(*They take care of children who don't have families.*)
- Shine the flashlight on a food item and ask how the Steelmans use food to show Jesus' love to the people in Kenya. (*They give food to people who are hungry.*)
- Shine the flashlight on a goat figure. Guide kids to talk about how giving villagers goats helps them. (*Goats provide food, money, and hope.*)
- Shine the flashlight on the Bible. Say: "The Steelman family loves to help people know about Jesus."
- Prompt one child to bring each item and set it near the group after you talk about it.
- Mention that you have hidden more dolls, Bibles, food, and goats around the room.
- Give a child the flashlight and suggest she shine the light on another one of the items. Direct her to bring it to the group. Continue until each child has had a turn.
- State: "The Steelman family helps people in Kenya know about Jesus in a lot of different ways. You can help people learn about Jesus too."
- Encourage kids to talk about ways they might help people learn about Jesus.

## MISSION PROJECT

- Say: "We are going to make birthday cards for kids who may be feeling sad and lonely. We can help them know that Jesus loves them."
- Give children blank note cards, markers, and stickers. Lead kids to draw pictures and decorate birthday cards.
- Say: "We don't know the names of the kids who will get these cards, but we can pray for them now." Voice a brief prayer while children create.

## PRAY

Thank God for the Steelman family. Pray that God will continue to help them as they work to teach people in Kenya about Jesus.

## CREATE A VILLAGE

- ☐ "Goats" (p. 19)
- ☐ Brown, light brown, dark green and light green construction paper
- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Safety scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- Place a large piece of white butcher paper on the floor.
- Place brown, light brown, and dark green construction paper, along with markers nearby.
- Make several copies of "Goats" on heavyweight paper. Cut out goat figures so each child has at least two.

## SEARCH FOR GOATS

- ☐ Goat figures (Substitute sheep figures if necessary.)
- ☐ Clean play sand
- ☐ Plastic bin
- ☐ Large towel
- ☐ Sand toys like rakes and shovels
- Place the goat figures in the bottom of a plastic bin. Cover the goats with sand.
- Place the bin on a large towel and scatter sand toys nearby.

## SHINE THE LIGHT

- ☐ Goat figures
- ☐ Food items
- ☐ Baby dolls
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Flashlight
- Hide several goat figures, baby dolls, food items, and Bibles around the room.

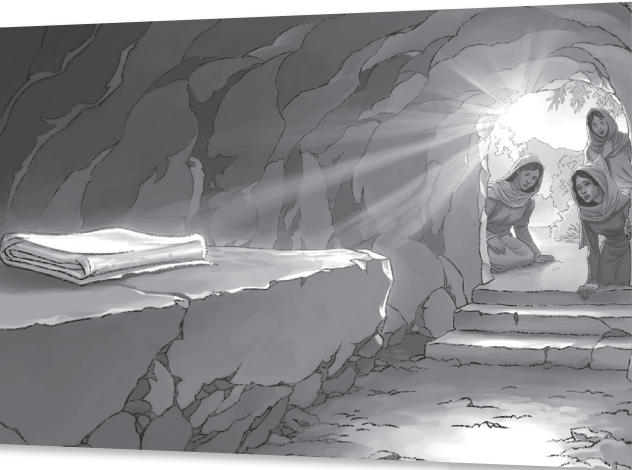
## MISSION PROJECT

- ☐ Blank note cards
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Stickers
- ☐ "Mission Project Letter" (p. 17)
- Distribute a "Mission Project Letter" to any child attending the first time.



## DAY 4

# JESUS IS THE PROVEN SON OF GOD



## JESUS DIED AND ROSE TO LIFE

*Mark 14:43–16:7*

Jesus did many things that showed He is the powerful Son of God—things no one else could do. Some people did not like Jesus because of the things He was doing and teaching. They did not believe that Jesus was God’s Son, so they wanted to stop Him.

Jesus was arrested, put on trial, and nailed to a cross. When Jesus died, a Roman army officer who had been watching Jesus said, “This man really was God’s Son!”

After Jesus died, His body was placed in a tomb. Three days later, some women went to the tomb. When they got there, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. They went in but did not find Jesus’ body. Instead, there was a man dressed in a white robe who said, “Don’t be afraid. Jesus is not here. He is alive!”



### TODAY’S POINT

Jesus is alive!

### WELCOME

- Preschool Missions Video
- Video playing device
- Box for collecting mission project items

### WELCOME

- Welcome kids back to Glow-in-the-dark Missions.
- Ask: “What is a missionary?” Explain that missionaries tell people about Jesus. Missionaries often travel to new places to tell people that Jesus loves them. They help people learn about God and His Son, Jesus.
- Say: “Today, you will learn about Tyler Martin and his family. Tyler and his family moved from Texas to Wyoming to start a new church.”
- Play the Day 4 video or tell the missions story.

### MISSIONARY STORY — WELCOME TO WYOMING

Tyler Martin and his family started a church in Bar Nunn, Wyoming. When God called his family to move from Texas, he didn’t even know where Bar Nunn was. He had to look it up on a map.

Most people don’t know how big and spread out Wyoming is. When the Martins got to Bar Nunn, they realized there are so many people in Wyoming who need to hear about Jesus, but there are not very many churches where people can learn about Jesus.

People can drive an hour in any direction and not see any gas stations, grocery stores, or churches. Most people aren’t going to drive an hour to go to a church, especially if they don’t know why they need one.

People can go their whole lives in Wyoming and never have a church in their hometown tell them about Jesus. When Tyler’s family gets asked why they would start a church, the answer is easy. In Wyoming there are a lot of places without them. The Martin family felt God calling them to help change that. They want every person in Wyoming to hear who Jesus is.

## LOOK AT A UNITED STATES MAP

- Recall that Tyler Martin and his family lived in Texas. Point to Texas on the map.
- Guide one of the children to put a star sticker on Texas.
- Indicate Wyoming on the map. Prompt one of the kids to put a star sticker on Wyoming. Locate the state where your church is located on the map. Allow a child to put a star where your church is located.
- Ask preschoolers if they have lived in any other places. Direct kids to put stars on those places.
- Mention that Tyler Martin and his family moved a long way from Texas to Wyoming because they wanted people to know about Jesus.

## BUILD HOUSES

- Mention that houses and towns are very far apart in Wyoming.
- Recall that people can drive an hour in any direction and not see a grocery store, gas station, or church.
- Encourage kids to work in groups to build houses using each group of blocks.
- Provide cars. Prompt boys and girls to drive the cars from one house to the next.
- Note that it is a long distance between each town.
- Place interlocking bricks near one of the houses. Suggest kids work together to build a church near the house.
- Say: “Tyler wants there to be a church close to where people live. He wants people to learn that Jesus is alive.”

## FIND THE CHURCH

- Remind kids that Tyler and his family moved to Wyoming to start a church.
- Recall that there are not very many churches in Wyoming and that people can drive for an hour or more to get to a church.
- Challenge kids to find the hidden churches.
- Direct kids to bring a church card to the table when they find one. Caution kids to stop looking when they find a church card so there will be enough cards for everyone.
- Suggest boys and girls use markers or crayons to color their churches.
- Say: “Take this church card home. Remember to pray for Tyler and his family when you see the card.”

## MISSION PROJECT

- Tell boys and girls they will be making bracelets that can be part of a kid’s birthday present. Show the sample bracelet. Then give each child a ziplock bag and a label with your church information. Guide kids to stick the labels on their ziplock bags.
- Give each child a chenille stem and an assortment of large buttons. Demonstrate how to poke one end of the chenille stem through the back of a button hole and back through the front of the button hole.
- When children are finished adding buttons, twist the ends to secure the bracelet and place it in the ziplock bag.
- Allow kids to create a second bracelet to keep.
- Say: “Whenever you wear your bracelet, I hope you’ll think about the child that will receive the bracelet you made. Maybe you can pray for him and ask God to help that child learn how much Jesus loves him.”

## PRAYER

- Pray for Tyler Martin and his family. Pray that God will help them as they start a new church in Bar Nunn, Wyoming. Ask God to guide Tyler as he helps people learn that Jesus is alive.

## LOOK AT A UNITED STATES MAP

- Large map of the United States
- Star stickers

## BUILD HOUSES

- Blocks
- Interlocking bricks
- Toy cars
- Place small groups of blocks in different areas of the room. Make sure there is adequate space between each group.

## FIND THE CHURCH

- “Church Cards” (p. 20)
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Make enough copies of “Church Cards” for each child to have one card. Cut apart church cards.
- Hide the cards around the room. Make some cards easy to find and others more difficult to find. Keep one card to show as an example to the kids.

**Leader Tip:** If a child brings more than one card to the table, encourage him to hide the extra card for someone else to find.

## MISSION PROJECT

- Chenille stems
- Large, multi-colored buttons
- Painter’s tape
- Ziplock bags
- 2-by-4-inch self-adhesive labels
- “Mission Project Letter” (p. 17)
- Print self-adhesive labels that say *Jesus loves* \_\_\_\_\_ along with your church name, address, and website.
- Cover the ends of the chenille stems with painter’s tape so children do not get scratched.
- Make a sample bracelet.
- Distribute a “Mission Project Letter” to any child attending the first time.



## DAY 5

# JESUS IS GOD'S PLAN FOR FORGIVENESS



## PETER PREACHED ABOUT JESUS

Acts 2

Followers of Jesus were all together in one place for a celebration. While they were there, God helped them speak in many different languages so they could tell people about Jesus.

Peter and the other disciples stood up in front of the crowd. Peter reminded the people that they saw Jesus do things no one else could do. These things proved that Jesus is God's Son. But just as God knew would happen, some people did not like Jesus and killed Him. Peter reminded the people that Jesus came back to life.

As the people listened to Peter, they were sad. They knew they had disobeyed God (sinned). The people were sorry they had disobeyed God. They wanted to do what God wanted them to do. That day, about 3,000 people decided to become followers of Jesus!



### TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is God's plan for forgiveness.

### WELCOME

- Large map of the United States
- Preschool Missions Video
- Video playing device
- Box for collecting mission project items

### WELCOME

- Welcome kids to the last day of Glow-in-the-dark Missions.
- Ask kids to tell you what they remember about today's Bible story.
- Mention that Jesus is God's plan for forgiveness.
- Display the United States map.
- Recall that Tyler and his family moved from Texas (point to Texas) to Wyoming (point to Wyoming) so they could help people learn about Jesus.
- Play the Day 5 video or tell the missions story.

### MISSIONARY STORY — OUTFITTER CHURCH

Tyler Martin and his family planted Outfitter Church in Bar Nunn, Wyoming. There is a big need for churches in their area. It can be a challenge to find a place for a church to meet in a small town. Outfitter Church meets at The Hangar restaurant. Turning a restaurant into a church is a lot of work. They have to bring in signs, chairs, snacks, and microphones. They have to set up all the things that show people they are a church. It's a lot of work, and everybody has to pitch in.

While Outfitter Church is setting up, there is a restaurant with customers, and people are watching them from the other side of the building. The whole time they are setting up, there are people looking in at what God is doing.

The Martins first met Trent when he visited the church. Trent went to The Hangar all the time. He was known as a pretty wild guy. One Sunday he went to the other side for the first time and went to church.

Today's Point is Jesus is God's plan for forgiveness. Jesus is the only One who can rescue us from the things we do that displease God. Tyler thinks that is why Trent came over to their side of The Hangar. He was disobeying God. Trent did not know that he needed a Savior to rescue him from his sins, but he got to learn about Jesus at The Hangar!

## SET UP A CHURCH AND RESTAURANT

- Ask kids to recall in what kind of place Tyler started the new church.
- Guide kids to work together to move chairs into one side of the space. Encourage kids to place Bibles on some of the chairs. Help move a table and chairs to the other side.
- Recall that Tyler’s church met on one side of the restaurant while people were eating on the other side. Suggest boys and girls put play food and dishes on the table.
- Invite some kids to sit on the church side while others sit on the restaurant side.
- Provide a toy microphone and encourage one child to pretend to be Tyler.
- Guide Tyler to stand in front of the kids and say, “Jesus is the Light of the world.”
- Prompt kids to move from the restaurant side to the church side.
- Recall that a man named Travis saw people meeting in the church and knew he wanted to learn about Jesus.
- Direct preschoolers to return tables, chairs, and food items to their proper places.

## PLAY “HOT AND COLD”

- Tell kids you are going to play a game called “Hot and Cold.”
- Explain that you have hidden a Bible somewhere in the room.
- Direct kids to stay together as a group to look for the Bible.
- Say: “I will say ‘hot’ if you are moving in the right direction and ‘cold’ if you are moving in the wrong direction.” Guide kids to start moving. Say hot and cold as they move around until they locate the Bible. Allow each child to choose a sticker as a prize.
- Say: “Travis was heading in the wrong direction. He had been making a lot of wrong choices. He went to church one day and learned about Jesus. Travis learned that Jesus is God’s plan for forgiveness. Travis moved in the right direction when he went to church.”

## PLANT GRASS SEEDS

- Guide children to scoop enough potting soil into their cups to fill them about  $\frac{2}{3}$  full.
- Prompt kids to sprinkle a few grass seeds on top of the soil and press the seeds in.
- Help preschoolers pour a little water on top of the seeds using the watering can.
- Write each child’s name on a small brown lunch bag and place her cup inside the bag.
- Recall that Tyler and his family wanted to plant a church in Bar Nunn, Wyoming. “Planting” a church means starting a new church.
- Say: “Tyler found a restaurant to meet in. Many people worked hard to get the church ready. They had to bring in signs, microphones, and chairs.”
- Continue: “You planted grass today starting with an empty cup, soil, and some seeds.”
- Encourage kids to take their cups home and take care of the growing grass by putting their cups where the seeds can get sun and be watered.
- Mention that they need to take care of the seeds to make the grass grow.
- Say: “Tyler and his team will take care of the people who come to Outfitter Church. They will help them grow to know more about Jesus and love Him.”

## MISSION PROJECT

- Show all of the donated items along with the handmade items from this week.
- Say: “These gifts you made or brought this week will be given to kids to help them know that they are not forgotten. We love them—and Jesus does too.”
- Assist kids in packing bags with birthday cards, bracelets, and any donated items.
- Challenge kids to pray for boys and girls who will receive these items after VBS is over.

## PRAY

- Pray for Tyler as he tells people about Jesus. Thank God that Travis heard the gospel and decided to follow Jesus. Pray that God will help Travis and others who have learned about Jesus at Tyler’s church keep loving Jesus and learning more about Him.

## SET UP A CHURCH AND RESTAURANT

- Painter’s tape
- Toy microphone
- Several Bibles
- Play food
- Play dishes
- Place a length of painter’s tape along the floor to divide an open space into two parts.

## PLAY “HOT AND COLD”

- Theme-related stickers
- Bible

**Leader Tip:** If you have a large group of kids, form smaller groups. One group can watch as another group looks for its Bible. Be sure to hide separate Bibles for each group. Wait to hand out stickers until all the Bibles have been found.

## PLANT GRASS SEEDS

- Plastic cups
- Potting soil
- Grass seeds
- Small container
- Plastic bin
- Watering can
- Marker
- Small brown lunch bags
- VBS 2026 Tablecloths* (9798384538189) or other plastic table covering
- Cover the table with plastic covering. Place grass seeds in a small container and potting soil in a plastic bin.

**Leader Tip:** Supervise closely as kids water their grass. Caution them to use a small amount of water so it does not spill.

## MISSION PROJECT

- Decorated gift bags, birthday cards, and bracelets that were made earlier in the week
- All donated items



# SUPPLIES LIST

## DAY 1

### WELCOME

- Preschool Missions Video
- Video playing device

### PLAY “SAME AND DIFFERENT”

- Index cards
- Markers

### ROLL A GLOBE

- “Map of Africa” (p. 18)
- Copy paper
- Inflatable globe
- Dot stickers

### PRETEND TO MAKE FOOD AND

### SHARE A SNACK

- Allergy Alert
- Donut holes
- Napkins
- Play dough

### MISSION PROJECT

- “Mission Project Letter” (p. 17)

## DAY 2

### WELCOME

- Preschool Missions Video
- Video playing device
- Box for collecting mission project items

### MAKE AN ANIMAL PARK

- Animal figures like lions, leopards, zebras, and giraffes
- People figures
- Toy cars
- Green and light brown paper

### DECORATE A PRAYER REMINDER

- “Map of Africa” (p. 18)
- Cardstock
- Markers

### FEED PEOPLE AND TAKE CARE

### OF CHILDREN

- Baby dolls
- Play food—fruit, vegetables, bread, and so on
- Books, blankets, shoes, T-shirts, small toys
- Two baskets

### MISSION PROJECT

- White gift bags with handles
- Markers
- Birthday stickers
- VBS 2026 Theme Stickers* (9798384538158)
- VBS 2026 Sticky Foam Shapes* (9798384538134)
- “Mission Project Letter” (p. 17)

## DAY 3

### WELCOME

- Preschool Missions Video
- Video playing device
- Box for collecting mission project items

### CREATE A VILLAGE

- “Goats” (p. 19)
- Brown, light brown, dark green, and light green construction paper
- Butcher paper
- Markers
- Safety scissors
- Glue sticks

### SEARCH FOR GOATS

- Goat figures (Substitute sheep figures if necessary.)
- Clean play sand
- Plastic bin
- Large towel
- Sand toys like rakes and shovels

### SHINE THE LIGHT

- Goat figures
- Food items
- Baby dolls
- Bibles
- Flashlight

### MISSION PROJECT

- Blank note cards
- Markers
- Stickers
- “Mission Project Letter” (p. 17)

## DAY 4

### WELCOME

- Preschool Missions Video
- Video playing device
- Box for collecting mission project items

### LOOK AT A UNITED STATES MAP

- Large map of the United States
- Star stickers

### BUILD HOUSES

- Blocks
- Interlocking bricks
- Toy cars

### FIND THE CHURCH

- “Church Cards” (p. 20)
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons

### MISSION PROJECT

- Chenille stems
- Large, multi-colored buttons
- Painter’s tape
- Ziplock bags
- 2-by-4-inch self-adhesive labels
- “Mission Project Letter” (p. 17)

## DAY 5

### WELCOME

- Large map of the United States
- Preschool Missions Video
- Video playing device
- Box for collecting mission project items

### SET UP A CHURCH AND

### RESTAURANT

- Painter’s tape
- Toy microphone
- Several Bibles
- Play food
- Play dishes

### PLAY “HOT AND COLD”

- Theme-related stickers
- Bible

### PLANT GRASS SEEDS

- Plastic cups
- Potting soil
- Grass seeds
- Small container
- Plastic bin
- Watering can
- Marker
- Small brown lunch bags
- VBS 2026 Tablecloths* (9798384538189) or other plastic table covering

### MISSION PROJECT

- Decorated gift bags, birthday cards, and bracelets that were made earlier in the week
- All donated items



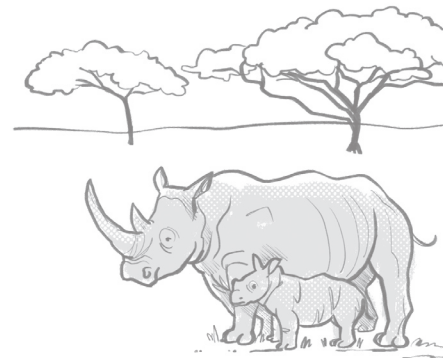
# LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parents,

At **Illumination Station VBS**, kids are discovering that Jesus is the Light of the world. Many people see Jesus as a good teacher or a good man from history, but Jesus is much more than that. This week, VBS is shining a light on the truth of who Jesus really is. Kids will hear that Jesus is God’s promised and perfect Son. He is the powerful and proven Son of God. Most importantly, Jesus is God’s plan for the forgiveness of sin.

Kids will hear about missionaries’ efforts in both the U.S. state of Wyoming and in Kenya to show people that Jesus is the Light of the world. Boys and girls will learn about ways they can be a light for Jesus within their own communities. This year’s mission project will help kids in the foster care system. In any given day, there are 400,000 boys and girls within the foster care system. VBS kids will be encouraged to donate new items to help the agencies that care for these vulnerable children. Kids will prepare birthday cards and other hand-made items that will be given to a local child welfare agency or faith-based organization. These items, along with a decorated booklet that explains the gospel, will be given to kids and families in crisis. In addition to praying, giving, and encouraging people through missions, kids will:

- **Learn about missions.** We hope you intentionally ask your child what she learned in missions each day.
- **Get involved with missions.** Please help your child participate in the mission project by bringing items to be donated to a faith-based child protective service or children’s placement agency in your area.
- **Pray for missions.** Pray with your child for the missionaries they learned about this week and for the families of the kids in your community who will receive the donated items.
- **Give to missions.** Encourage your child to give to the VBS missions offering.
- **Encourage people through missions.** Kids will creatively encourage the recipients of the handmade items by drawing pictures and writing Bible verse truths to share.

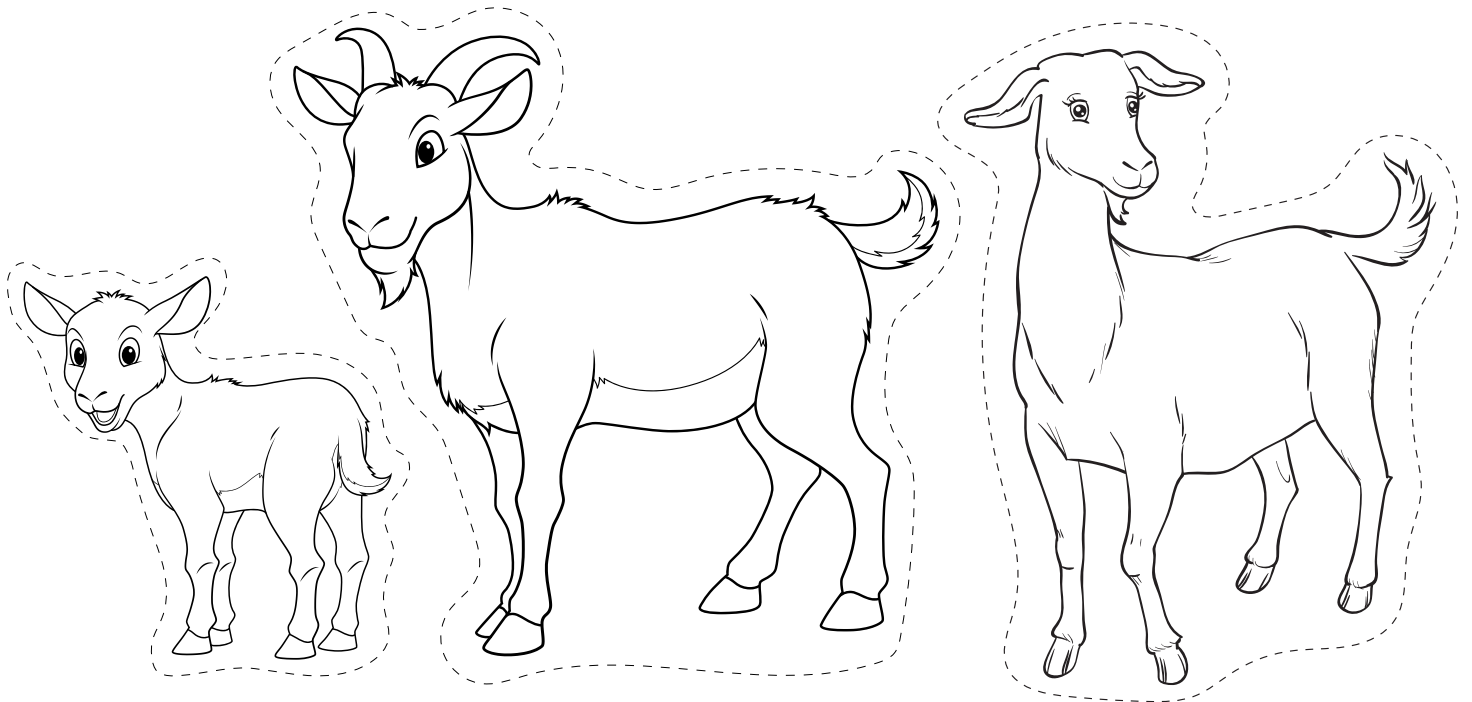
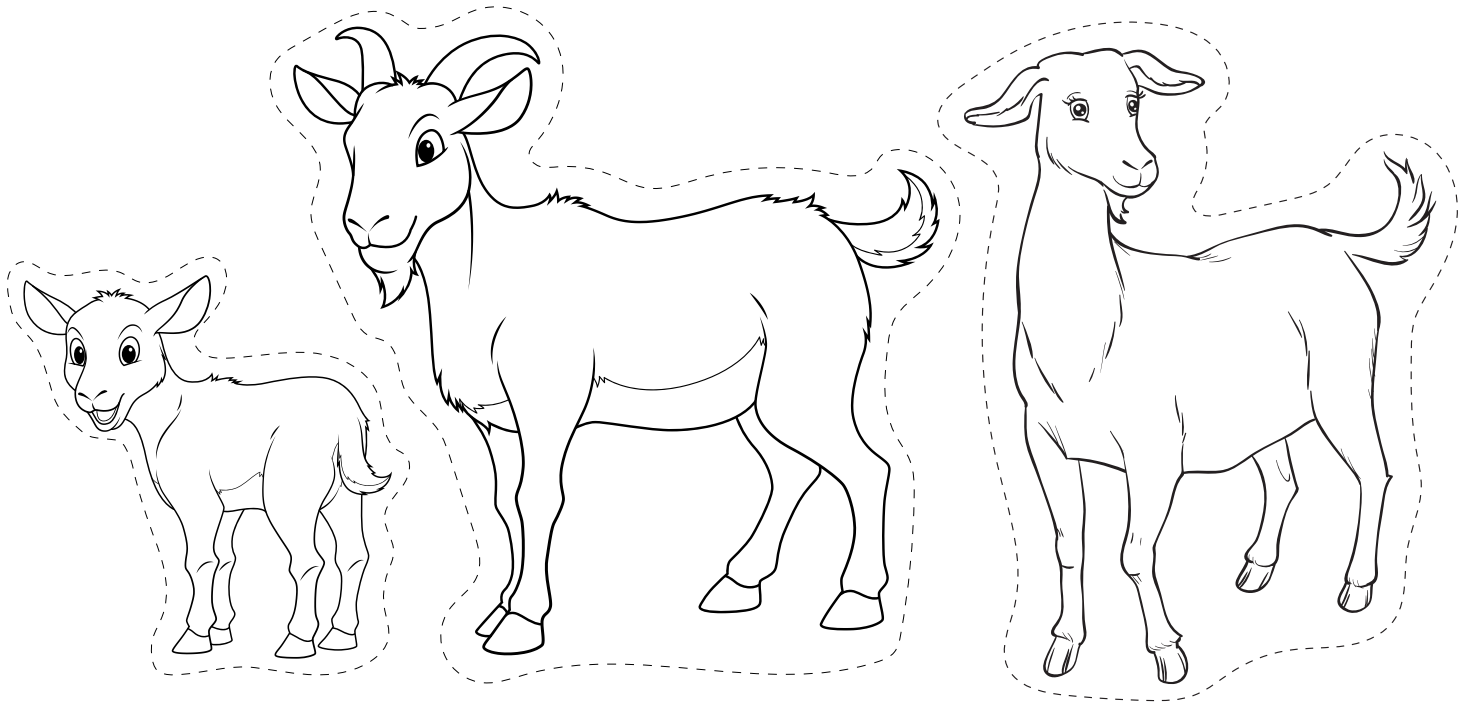


We are collecting new toys, stuffed animals, books, toiletries, socks and underwear, and small duffel bags to be given to a faith-based agency in our community who acts as a liaison between children in the foster-care system and their families. This agency will distribute the items to children who have been separated from their families. We have consulted with a local organization and are requesting donations of the items listed below. Thank you for helping your child be an active part of missions!

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Pray for the  
**Steelman  
Family**







## 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. Like the disciples, kids will be challenged to answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" They will discover it's not a matter of opinion. Jesus is who Scripture says He is—the perfect, proven, and powerful Son of God.