



ILLUMINATION  
STATION JOHN 8:12

VBS 2026

# KINDERGARTEN

Leader Guide

# SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH PARENTS



**1. God rules.** The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. (Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17)



**2. We sinned.** Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**3. God provided.** God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9)



**4. Jesus gives.** Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18)



**5. We respond.** Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. (John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13)

# MAKE YOUR VBS GLOW!

## ENLIGHTEN YOURSELF

- Read the Scripture passage and leader devotion for each day. Take time to pause and reflect on what God is telling you through His Word. Teach from the overflow.
- Pray for the kids you will teach. Pray for yourself and the other leaders at VBS. Ask people to pray for you.

## TOOLS FOR A BRIGHTER LOOK

- Use these curriculum pieces.
- This leader guide (9798384537465) The guide contains plans for an opening and a closing group time as well as Bible-learning activities. It does not include plans for rotation activities. (1 guide per teacher)
- *VBS 2026 Kindergarten Leader Pack* (9798384537472) The leader pack includes Bible story pictures, posters, cards, and other fun teaching items. A music CD is also included. (1 pack per classroom)
- *VBS 2026 Preschool Activity Book* (9798384537014) This book can be used throughout the week to reinforce Bible learning. Activities are also included for families to do at home. (1 per child)
- *VBS 2026 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack* (9798384537502) This pack contains teaching plans for missions, music, recreation, and crafts. (at least 1 pack per church)

## LET HIS LIGHT SHINE THROUGH YOU

- The ultimate goal is to share the love of Jesus with these little ones and their families. Make sure your church has correct contact information for each child in your class.
- Look for ways to stay connected with the children you taught. (See page 8 for a few ideas.)

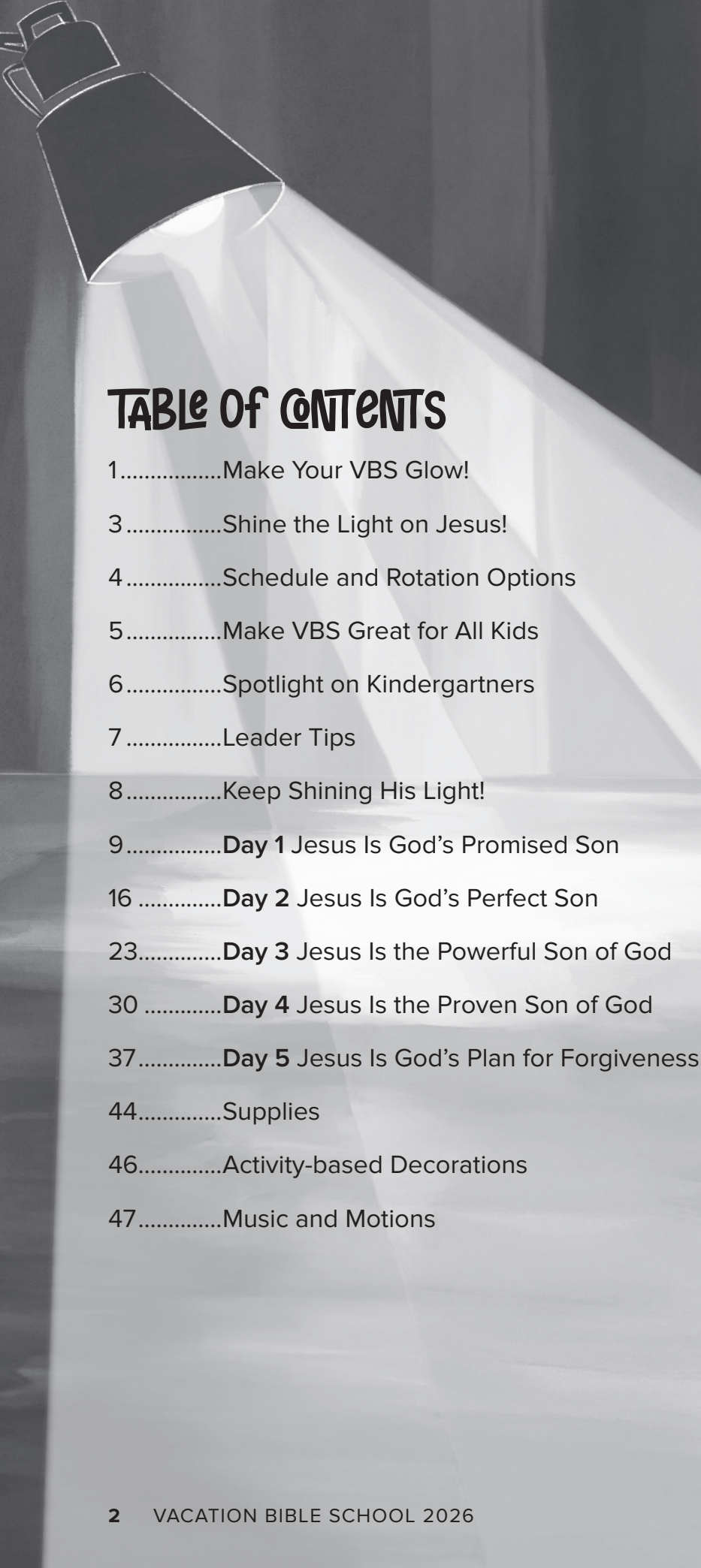
## DETAILS TO HELP YOUR WEEK GLEAM

- Find out how long your actual teaching time will be and where you will travel for each rotation activity. (Look at page 4 to plan your schedule.)
- Determine how many children you will have.
- Read through the teaching plans and highlight what you want to include.
- Meet with your other leaders to plan each daily session. Make a list of the supplies you will need.
- Organize and prepare items from the leader pack. Instructions are printed on the bottom of each pack item. Some pack items are printed on the front and back—read the instructions before cutting anything!
- Gather needed supplies. (Some VBS directors will gather supplies for you. Check to be sure how your church does this.)

## ENJOY THE GLOW

- Relax and enjoy building relationships with your kids.
- Be flexible. Adjust your plans to make this the best experience possible for you and your kindergartners. If your kids get restless, move on to the next activity. Remember that all Bible-learning activities may be repeated throughout the day or week.





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## EDITORIAL TEAM KIDS MINISTRY PUBLISHING

**Shelly Harris**  
*Publishing Team Leader*

**Klista Storts, Sara Lansford**  
*Content Editors*

**Mattie Washington**  
*Production Editor*

**Gordon Brown**  
*Graphic Designer*

**Jeremy Carroll**  
*Publishing Manager, VBS, Hyfi, and Kids Discipleship*

**Chuck Peters**  
*Director, Lifeway NextGen*

*Special thanks to our writer, Marsha Roesener*

Send questions/comments to  
VBS Publishing Team Leader by email to  
vbs@lifeway.com  
or by mail to  
VBS Publishing Team Leader  
VBS 2026 Kindergarten Leader Guide  
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# SHINE THE LIGHT ON JESUS!



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!

## DAY 1: JESUS IS GOD'S PROMISED SON

**Bible Story:** Jesus Asked Who People Thought He Was

**Today's Point:** Jesus is God's promised Son.

### Rotation Activities

**Music:** "Illumination Station"; "Shine the Light"; "Who Is Jesus?"; "Light of the World"

**Missions:** Play Same and Different; Roll a Globe; Pretend to Make Food and Share a Snack; Mission Project

**Crafts:** Pool Noodle Painting; Jesus Rocks; Dazzling Kaleidoscope; Craft Stick Lantern

**Recreation:** Mystery Pass Relay

## DAY 2: JESUS IS GOD'S PERFECT SON

**Bible Story:** The Baptism of Jesus

**Today's Point:** Jesus is God's perfect Son.

### Rotation Activities

**Music:** "Light of the World"; "Bright In Me"; "I Can Be Like Jesus"; "Shine the Light"

**Missions:** Make an Animal Park; Decorate a Prayer Reminder; Feed People and Take Care of Children; Mission Project

**Crafts:** Salt Painting; Baptism Scene; Tie-dye Suncatchers; Light Bulb Straw Painting

**Recreation:** The Perfect Catch

## DAY 3: JESUS IS THE POWERFUL SON OF GOD

**Bible Story:** Jesus Performed Miracles

**Today's Point:** Jesus is the powerful Son of God.

### Rotation Activities

**Music:** "I Can Be Like Jesus"; "Things No One Else Can Do"; "Who Is Jesus?"; "Bright In Me"

**Missions:** Create a Village; Search for Goats; Shine the Light; Mission Project

**Crafts:** Fish Bible Marker; Basket of Food; Constellation Cube; String Painting

**Recreation:** Gathering Fish and Loaves

## DAY 4: JESUS IS THE PROVEN SON OF GOD

**Bible Story:** Jesus Died and Rose to Life

**Today's Point:** Jesus is alive!

### Rotation Activities

**Music:** "I Can Be Like Jesus"; "Light of the World"; "Things No One Else Can Do"; "Who Is Jesus?"

**Missions:** Look at a United States Map; Build Houses; Find the Church; Mission Project

**Crafts:** Surprise Message; Build a Scene; Laced Cross; Empty Tomb Silhouette

**Recreation:** Light Storm

## DAY 5: JESUS IS GOD'S PLAN FOR FORGIVENESS

**Bible Story:** Peter Preached About Jesus

**Today's Point:** Jesus is God's plan for forgiveness.

### Rotation Activities

**Music:** "Illumination Station"; "Things No One Else Can Do"; "Bright In Me"; "Shine the Light"

**Missions:** Set Up a Church and Restaurant; Play Hot and Cold; Plant Grass Seeds; Mission Project

**Crafts:** Craft Stick Puzzle; Glitter Art; Illumination Station Magnet; Scratch Art Picture Frame

**Recreation:** Listen and Move

*Recreation activities for theme and free play are also available to choose from for each day.*

### Bible Verse

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

*John 8:12* (paraphrase)

### Motto

Jesus is the Light of the world.

### Christ Connection

Our sin keeps us from fully knowing the truth about who Jesus really is. Jesus came as the light to shine in a world darkened by sin. Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection show us who He really is—the perfect and powerful Son of God who came to be our Savior.

### Level of Biblical Learning

Jesus

Jesus is God's Son.

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](http://lifeway.com/lobl).

# SCHEDULE AND ROTATION OPTIONS

## ACTIVITY OPTIONS

- Plan three (or more) activities. Allow kids to move freely from activity to activity.
- Select two (or more) activities to occur simultaneously. Send a group of kids to each activity and swap after 10 minutes.
- Plan two (or more) activities. Guide all kids to complete the first activity and then move as a group to the next activity.
- For shorter VBS schedules, shorten or omit a rotation activity, intro activity, or closing group time.
- For longer VBS schedules, plan all four activities plus the bonus activity and increase the allotted total time for Bible-learning activities.

## SAMPLE SCHEDULE (3-HOUR VBS)

- Intro Activity (*Choose 1*) 10 min.
- Group Time 20 min.
- Bible-learning Activities (*Choose at least 2*) 40 min.
- Rotation Activities 100 min.\*
  - Mirror Ball Music 25 min.
  - Glow-in-the-dark Missions 25 min.
  - Kaleidoscope Crafts 25 min.
  - Suncatcher Recreation 15 min.
  - Neon Snacks 10 min.
- Closing Group Time 10 min.

*\*The suggested time for rotations includes transition time.*

## ROTATION OPTIONS

Work with your VBS director to structure a plan for rotation activities. Teaching plans for rotation activities are found in the *VBS 2026 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack* (9798384537502).

## SAMPLE ROTATION PLANS

- **Rotate Out**
  - Teachers accompany kids to each rotation, stay with them during rotation activities, then lead them back to their main room for closing group time.
- **Rotate In**
  - Teachers are enlisted to come to the preschool rooms and lead rotation activities. After teaching the 20-minute session, rotation teachers then move to another classroom.
- **Self-contained Classroom**
  - Children and teachers remain in the same room for all activities.

Look at your space, your leaders, and your kindergartners to determine what works best for your church. You may choose a combination of any or all of the options above.

## CREATE YOUR OWN SCHEDULE

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# MAKE VBS GREAT FOR ALL KIDS

Your VBS is filled with kids—kids with different abilities, kids who’ve never been to church, kids who come maybe three or four times a year, and of course, kids you see every Sunday! With such a wide array of kids, the challenge is how to make sure that all kids feel welcomed and engaged. Here are a few ways to do just that!

## NEW KIDS AT VBS

- **Play name games daily.** Hearing that someone knows his name can help a new kid feel at ease. Helping him make friends who also know his name is even better.
- **Explain expectations.** Take time to talk about what the day will look like, what rotations kids will go to, or how they will be moving around campus.
- **Be patient with kids who don’t know “church” rules,** such as staying quiet while someone is praying, focusing during Bible story time, following safety guidelines, and so forth.
- **Don’t embarrass any child.** Speak one-on-one when guidance is necessary. (For instance: instead of calling inappropriate language “bad words,” just remind kids that “we don’t say those words here.”)
- **Stay away from “church-ese.”** Speak their language. Define church words often. Some won’t know who Jesus is; what sin is; what a miracle is; or what it means to be baptized.
- **Teach Bible skills** as if no one has ever heard them so a child doesn’t feel like the odd one out. This is especially true for older kids. Many will not know how to find a specific Bible book or verse. Some may not even truly know what a Bible is.
- **Remind kids of details.** Take time daily to remind kids of what was learned during previous sessions. This will help new kids as well as those who might struggle with remembering from day to day.

## KIDS WITH DIFFERENT ABILITIES

**Make environmental changes so that kids with special needs are able to complete the task.**

- Move floor activities to a tabletop so kids with mobility issues or in wheelchairs can more easily participate.
- Increase the font size of handouts or posters to improve visibility for children with vision limitations.

- Use a clear color contrast for print such as a black background with white print or a white background with black print.
- Adapt activities to allow children the opportunity to participate with a level of achievement.
- Provide pool noodles to extend reach for kids with limited mobility to reach things like posters on the wall (point to the \_\_\_ ) or to use in simple tag games like Duck, Duck, Goose.
- Offer options that would include the child such as being the timekeeper or scorekeeper.
- Provide a large clip (like a chip bag clip) to aid in holding cards.

### Modify content for the kindergartners.

- Provide a visual schedule (icons or pictures to represent the day’s sequence of events). Hang this on the focal wall or another easily visible location.
- Use picture cues whenever possible for learning and review.

### Provide a buddy for a child who requires assistance because of a disability.

- A buddy can assist one-on-one with the child.
- A buddy can monitor safety at all times for the kindergartner.
- A buddy can reteach or redirect during a Bible story or activity.
- A buddy can make accommodations to the environment for the child as needed (such as moving chairs out of the way for a wheelchair to have table access).

Special Needs Adaptations by  
Peggy Howard

# SPOTLIGHT ON KINDERGARTNERS

**Let me see it and do it myself!** Kindergartners are hands-on, experiential learners. They LEARN as they DO. This leader guide is filled with ideas specifically designed to help kindergartners learn in the ways God made them to learn.

**Be quick or I might miss it!** Kindergartners have SHORT attention spans—roughly one minute for every year of age. Be prepared for kids to tire quickly and be ready to move on to something else. Stay flexible during group times and be ready to shorten, repeat, or even skip elements as needed.


**You're being watched!** Kindergartners are ALWAYS watching and listening—even when you think they are not. Children will learn more from your actions than your words. Be aware that everything you do (or don't do) and everything you say (or don't say) is teaching something to kids.

## **Different kids. Different interests and skills.**

Kindergartners are still developing fine and gross motor skills. They skip, hop, and jump well but are still learning to cut with scissors and write words. Be prepared for a wide range of skills among the children you teach. For some kids, the experience of cutting or coloring or painting or stacking blocks may be more important than actually “making” something.

**This week can be life-changing!** Kindergartners are capable of internalizing and applying Bible truths. They remember and like to tell Bible stories, can use the Bible, can find Bible verses, and enjoy singing songs about God and Jesus. Kids also want to know that they are doing what the Bible teaches.

**Show me again! Let's do it again!** Kindergartners LOVE repetition. It's good to repeat activities throughout the week and bring back favorite games and songs.



**TIP:** You'll be able to avoid a lot of behavioral challenges simply by being ready to begin as soon as the first child walks into the room. Kids will be less inclined to run wild if leaders are ready and waiting to engage them in activities.

**TIP:** Remember that as the teacher, you are “the lesson.” Use a variety of tools (music, games, play, activities, and Bible stories) to teach kindergartners Bible truths.

**TIP:** Don't stress if art projects end up looking much different than imagined. The process is more important than the end result. If kids enjoyed doing it, it was a success!

**TIP:** Kindergartners like to please adults. Remind kids whenever they “do what the Bible teaches” that they are doing what is pleasing to God.

**TIP:** Try setting up Bible-learning activities in different areas of the room and letting kids move freely from activity to activity. This will help kids stay engaged at their own pace!

# LEADER TIPS

## EQUIP YOURSELF FOR SUCCESS

- Familiarize yourself with the contents of this guide, the *Kindergarten Leader Pack*, *Music for Preschoolers CD* (included in the leader pack or can be purchased for download at [lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com)), and the *Preschool Activity Book* (9798384537014).
- Prepare all leader pack items according to the instructions printed on the bottom of each item.
- Get together with the other leaders in your room before VBS, go through the leader guide, and divvy up responsibilities. This will keep any one leader from bearing the full weight and will help create an environment where both learning and fun can take place!
- Set up the room for VBS and prepare activities ahead of time each day. At the end of VBS, put away all supplies and return the room to its original arrangement.
- Remember that you are the example of what God is like to a child. As you talk with and listen to kids, play alongside them, give appropriate hugs, protect them, help them work through challenges, and meet their basic needs, you are demonstrating God's love in practical, tangible ways.

## PRINTABLE RESOURCES

These printable teacher helps can be downloaded at: <https://vbs.lifeway.com> under the Resources tab.

- 3s–Kindergarten Planning Chart
- Child Information Sheet
- Hygiene Tips
- Allergy Alert

## AUDIO RESOURCES

You can find audio resources on the *VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers CD* (9798384537540) in the leader pack or they can be purchased for download at [lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com).

## PROVIDE A SAFE EXPLORATION ZONE

- 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. Ask your director for the "Screening Procedures" printable from the Administrative Guide.

- 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.
- Sign-in sheets and security wristbands, tags, or cards are good ways to ensure safe and appropriate release to parents/guardians.
- Follow the two-person rule at all times. Make sure there are always at least two adult leaders, even if only one child is present.
- Try to maintain the recommended leader/child ratio of one leader for every five children.
- Allow only two kindergartners of the same gender in the restroom at one time. A leader should supervise at the door, while remaining in full view of another leader. A leader should never be alone in the restroom with a child.

## TIPS FOR MOVING GROUPS OF KIDS

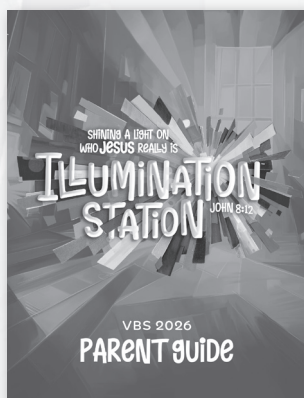
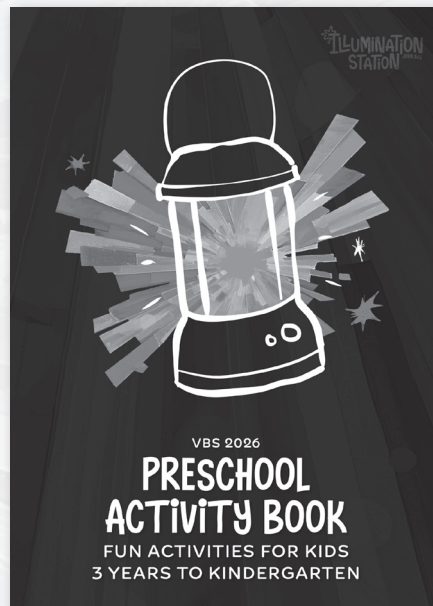
- Locate rotation sites close to each other, such as next door or just across the hallway.
- Maintain appropriate leader/child ratios (1:5) while traveling to and from rotations.
- Enlist one leader to lead the line and another leader to walk at the end of the line.
- Use the buddy system (friends holding hands, walking side by side) to keep kids together.
- Keep an accurate daily attendance list with you as you travel to make sure everyone is accounted for at all times.

## MEMORY MAKERS

Help kids cling to foundational truths learned in this year's VBS by adding keepsakes to the *VBS 2026 Memory Maker* (9798384538141). Kids will receive a daily tag with an icon to remind them of a simple, essential truth from the day's Bible story. Additional reminders are sometimes offered by rotation and Bible study leaders to help kids recall these truths and other fun experiences from VBS. Because they'll be used often, keep your Memory Makers close by for quick and easy access wherever your class goes!

# KEEP SHINING HIS LIGHT!

1. Encourage parents to use the *VBS 2026 Preschool Activity Book* (9798384537014) to engage their children in spiritual conversations at home. This book provides a summary of each Bible story from VBS and a family activity to help parents and children personally apply each day's Bible truth.
2. Provide *VBS 2026 Parent Guides* (9798384538745) for all parents.
3. Send notes, call, or visit each child after VBS. Consider taking a small gift such as the *VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers CD* (9798384537540) for children to enjoy all of their favorite VBS songs for years to come!
4. Invite families to attend church events, including weekly activities as well as special events. Provide a copy of your church's calendar of events. Partner with leaders from small groups who could come alongside these kindergartners and their young families.





# DAY 1

# JESUS IS GOD'S PROMISED SON

## BIBLE STORY

**Jesus Asked Who People Thought He Was**

*Matthew 16:13-20*

## BIBLE VERSE

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

*John 8:12 (paraphrase)*

## TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is God's promised Son.

**Spotlight Question:** Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Messiah, the promised Son of God.



## LEADER DEVOTION

Think for a moment about a teacher who significantly impacted and brightened up your life. You may have identified this teacher because of how he or she made you feel loved, valued, and understood. This week, you have an opportunity to be that kind of teacher—one who builds meaningful relationships with children, helping them feel loved and accepted in ways they may have never experienced before. Take time to pray and ask God to use you to make an eternal impact in the lives of the children you teach.

Beyond building relationships, one often-overlooked trait of exceptional teachers is their ability to ask great questions. Great questions captivate attention, inspire deep thinking, and foster renewed curiosity and wonder. They can also reveal gaps in understanding, provide opportunities for assessment, or highlight a student's mastery of a subject.

Jesus exemplified this trait as a master teacher. His use of engaging questions was a hallmark of His teaching. Consider these examples from the New Testament, where Jesus asked thought-provoking and soul-searching questions:

- "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (Mark 4:40)
- "Why do you break God's commandment because of your tradition?" (Matthew 15:3)
- "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things I say?" (Luke 6:46)
- "Do you want to get well?" (John 5:6)

Let's shine the spotlight on two of the most significant and revealing questions Jesus ever asked His disciples. After spending time with His disciples in a boat, they traveled to Caesarea Philippi—a place known for its pagan gods. Against this backdrop of pagan influence, Jesus pressed His disciples for answers to these two questions:

- Who do people say that the Son of Man is?
- But you, who do you say that I am?

Scripture records the disciples answering the first question, but the second question is responded to specifically by Peter. Peter declared, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Have you ever wondered why Peter was the first disciple to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah? Surely, there was a more faithful and less controversial disciple who could have spoken up rather than the flawed and impulsive Peter.

Jesus knew Peter's weaknesses. He knew Peter would deny Him three times, yet He washed Peter's feet anyway. (See John 13.) He knew Peter would fall asleep in the garden of Gethsemane, yet He blessed Peter when God revealed to him that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus knew every detail of Peter's story—his failures, doubts, and triumphs—and He still chose to love and use Peter in powerful ways.

Jesus did not write Peter off as unreliable or deem him unworthy of being used for His purposes. Instead, He entrusted Peter with the opportunity to preach at Pentecost and lead His church. (See Acts 2.) Peter's story is a reminder that God sees potential where others see character flaws, and He calls us to love, lead, and serve in ways that often do not make sense to others.

### Illuminate Your Heart

- Jesus asks each of us the same question. Take this opportunity to answer it for yourself. "But you, who do you say I am?"
- It may be easy to make a declaration of words, but it is much harder to live out our belief in Jesus as our Messiah. Peter certainly struggled to walk out the words he declared. Thank God for His redemptive love for each of us and ask Him to use you this week to proclaim the good news of Jesus to each boy and girl in your care.

# INTRO ACTIVITIES

## ROOM PREPARATION

- Prepare pack items (1, 6–9, 12–14, 18–23, 25, 27–28, 31, 34) according to the directions printed on each item.
- Attach the “Focal Wall” (pack item 6) and “Bible Verse Poster” (pack item 8) to the wall at the children’s eye level. Attach all poster add-ons (pack item 7) for each day as directed.
- Gather one *VBS 2026 Preschool Activity Book* (9798384537014) and one *VBS 2026 Memory Maker* (9798384538141) per child. If it is not possible to provide one for each child, purchase a few for the room to use during VBS.
- See page 46 for decorating ideas that will enhance learning.

## CAUTION

If you are using lighting sources such as battery-operated tea lights, spotlights, or projectors, please check for potential choking hazards and heat elements that could burn the skin or eyes or be a fire hazard. Be cautious using flashing lights as they may trigger certain medical conditions such as seizures, migraines, and so on. Avoid using strobe lights.

## LIGHT BOX TIPS

- Enhance your preschooler’s light box experience with any items that are translucent so that light can travel through.
- Bright colors are the most fun. Examples are: cups, lids, file folder dividers cut into shapes, straws, large glass beads, large glass stones, sensory bottles, see through magnetic tiles, neon transparent cars.

## LIGHT BOX: SPELLING J-E-S-U-S

**SUPPLIES:** Light Box (instructions found on pack item 31), neon color see-through plastic cups, index cards, permanent marker

- Prior to the session, prepare the light box as directed on “Light Box and Neon Rice Instructions” (pack item 31). Turn the cups upside down. Use the marker to write letters of the alphabet on the bottom of each cup. Write a variety of letters, but be sure to include multiples of the following letters: J-E-S-U-S; G-O-D; and P-E-T-E-R. Make index cards with these names on them so the children will know how to spell them.
- Turn on the light box and place the cups around the table.
- Say: “Our light box shines bright! Our Bible verse says that Jesus is the Light of the world. This means Jesus helps us see and know what God is like. We can shine bright for Jesus too! We can do that by doing what the Bible teaches: loving others, helping others, obeying our parents, sharing with our friends, and being kind to others.”
- Encourage the children to put the cups onto the light box to see how they look with the light shining through them. Suggest that kids spell out the names they see on the index cards. Explain that these names will be in the Bible stories this week.
- Challenge kids to use the cups to spell out other words they know.
- Allow kids to stack and build with the cups. Suggest they put several colors on top of one another to see how the color changes.
- Say: “In our Bible story today, we will talk about someone with an important name. His name is Jesus.”

## BIBLE STORY PROJECTION DESIGNS

**SUPPLIES:** “Bible Story Projection Designs” (pack item 28) copied out on a transparency film (or traced onto a clear surface like tape or cling wrap, **do not cut** the original pack item), *VBS 2026 Foam Sticky Shapes* (9798384538134), cardboard tubes (1 for each design), a few flashlights, white poster board

- Prior to the session, make projectors by attaching the “Bible Story Projection Designs” (pack item 28) with packing tape to cardboard tubes. Add *VBS 2026 Foam Sticky Shapes* to make additional silhouettes.
- Instruct a child to hold a projector in one hand and the flashlight in the other.
- Point the light down through the projector and onto the white poster board. The closer the children place their projectors and their flashlights to the poster board, the clearer the projection becomes. (This may require different distances with different flashlights.) Designs can also be projected onto a nearby wall.
- Guide children to take turns choosing a design to project onto the poster board.
- Discuss the designs they are projecting. Say: “Our Bible stories this week will shine a light on, or help us learn better, who Jesus really is. We will learn from the Bible that Jesus is the Light of the world.”

## PLAY A NAME GAME

- Say: “Today in our Bible story we are going to learn about a very important name. That name is *Jesus!* Each of you has a very special name too! Let’s play a game to hear all the special names!”
- Explain that you will roll a ball to a child and she will say her name. That child will then choose the child she rolls the ball to next, and that child will say his name. Repeat the process until each child has had a turn to say his name.
- If time allows, ask each child to say her name out loud and then sing “The Name Song” to the tune of “B-I-N-G-O.”
  - I have a friend, a special friend
  - And (insert child’s name) Mia is her name-o
  - She’s a special friend
  - She’s a special friend

- She’s a special friend
- And Mia is her name-o
- Shine the flashlight on one child’s shirt as she says her name. After singing everyone’s name, sing the song again using Jesus’ name.

## INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “You have a special name. Friends and family call you by your name. Jesus had an important name! Let’s learn about Jesus now!”

## TELL THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Matthew 16, choose a child to place today’s “Bible Marker” (pack item 18) in that spot in the Bible. Say: “Each day our Bible story comes from the Bible. The Bible is a very special book. Every word in the Bible is true!” Lay your Bible in your lap as you tell the Bible story.

## GROUP TIME SUPPLIES AND PREP

- Bible
- “Bible Story Picture 1” (pack item 1)
- “Focal Wall” (pack item 6)
- “Focal Wall Add-on” for Day 1 (pack item 7)
- “Bible Verse Poster” (pack item 8)
- “Bible Marker” for Day 1 (pack item 18)
- “Seek and Find Flashlight” (pack item 19)
- “Seek and Find” (pack item 20)
- VBS 2026 Preschool Activity Book* (1 per child)
- VBS 2026 Memory Maker* (1 per child)
- Ball
- Flashlight
- Index card or folded piece of copy paper
- Place the “Bible Marker” for Day 1 (pack item 18) in your Bible at Matthew 16.



## PLAY A NAME GAME LEADER TIP

For added fun, use a *VBS 2026 Glitter Beach Ball* (9798384539810).

## NAME GAME SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

- If a child is in a wheelchair, sit around a table and roll the ball across the table to each kid.
- For a child who is nonverbal, have preprinted names (different colors) on a piece of white paper. Guide the child to point to the person’s name of whom she would like to roll the ball, or a leader could state one child’s name using her right hand and another child’s name using her left hand. The child will then look at the hand representing whom she would like to roll the ball.



## JESUS ASKED WHO PEOPLE THOUGHT HE WAS

*Matthew 16:13-20*

One day, 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. Many people thought Jesus could be a prophet named John who had died. They thought maybe John had come back to life. A prophet was someone who told people special

messages from God. Jesus was more special than even a prophet.

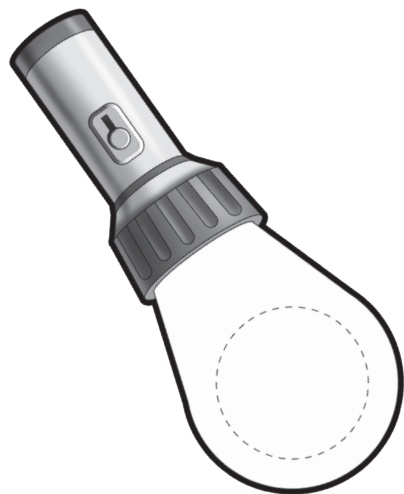
Jesus asked His disciples, “But who do you say that I am?”

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.

Who is Jesus? Jesus is God’s promised Son.

# GROUP TIME



## TRANSITION TO BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Describe each Bible-learning activity.
- Shine a flashlight on each child and ask her to say her name as she chooses an activity.

## RECALL THE BIBLE STORY SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

For the child who seems to be withdrawn, shy, encourage him to use the “Search and Find Flashlight” (pack item 19) to show something he liked about the Bible story.

## RECALL THE BIBLE STORY

- Display “Bible Story Picture 1” (pack item 1) and talk with kids about what they see in the picture.
- Teach today’s Bible story song to the tune of “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain.”
  - Oh, Jesus is the promised Son of God
  - Oh, Jesus is the promised Son of God
  - Jesus asked His friend a question
  - And Peter knew the answer
  - He said, “Jesus is the promised Son of God”
- Repeat the song a few times so kids become familiar with it.
- Ask: “What question did Jesus ask His disciples?” (*Who do people say that I am?*)
- Ask: “Who is Jesus?” (*Jesus is God’s promised Son.*)
- Use the “Search and Find Flashlight” (pack item 19) to focus in on the “Search and Find” poster (pack item 20). Show kids where the question mark is.

## LEARN THE BIBLE VERSE

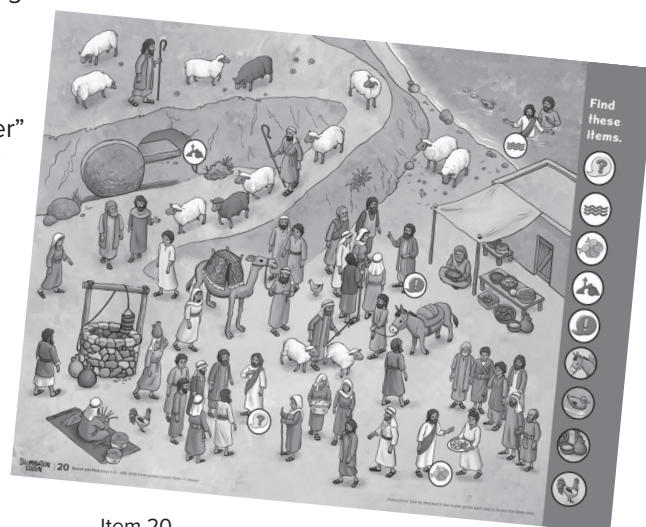
- Say: “Today we are going to start learning our Bible verse for the week. Let’s hear it in a song.”
- Play “Light of the World.”
- Point to and read the “Bible Verse Poster” (pack item 8) on the wall. Say: “Let’s say the verse together!”
- Use an index card or a piece of folded copy paper to cover up one word on the poster. Challenge kindergartners to say the verse together. Then, cover a different word. Repeat until most of the children can say the verse.

## TODAY’S POINT AND PRAYER

- Direct the children to look at the “Focal Wall” (pack item 6).
- Invite a child to lift the moon add-on to show Today’s Point.
- Read the Point aloud and guide the children to repeat after you.
- Invite the children to pray. Thank God that He loves everyone and knows every child’s name. Thank God for sending Jesus.

## MAKE A MEMORY

- Show the Day 1 Memory Maker and bag. Tell children they will collect a tag each day to help them remember what they have learned at VBS.
- Distribute Day 1 tags. Point out the question mark on the tag. Tell kids that the question mark can remind them that Jesus asked His disciples who people said He was.
- Say Today’s Point: “Jesus is God’s promised Son.”
- Lead kids to add the Day 1 tags to their bags. Collect them before transitioning to other activities.



Item 20

# BIBLE—LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## PLAY A GAME

**SUPPLIES:** “Bible and Movement Cards” (pack item 12), “Gameboard” (pack item 22), “Game Spinner” (pack item 23), clothespins, markers

- Prior to the session use markers to make the clothespins different colors. Sort the “Bible and Movement Cards” (pack item 12) into two stacks: “Movement Cards” (with squares) and “Bible Cards” (with circles). Place the two stacks faceup next to the “Gameboard” (pack item 22).
- Form teams of preschoolers. (Depending on the size of your group, this could be one child or multiple kids per team.)
- Guide each team to pick one clothespin for its game piece.
- Instruct kids on each team to take turns spinning the “Game Spinner” (pack item 23) to see how many spaces on the “Gameboard” (pack item 22) the team should move its playing piece.
- If the game piece lands on a square, the child should choose a “Movement Card.” The team should perform the activity shown on the card. Return the card to the bottom of the stack.
- If the piece lands on a circle, the team should choose a card from the “Bible Cards” and follow that instruction. Return the card to the bottom of the stack.
- Continue playing until one team reaches “Finish” on the board.

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Play the game again. This time, mix all the cards together and place in one stack.
- Ask a child to spin the spinner and move his team’s game piece the number shown.
- The child will then choose from the stack, and the team will perform the activity or answer the question shown on the card.

## ★ KID CONNECTION

I can learn about Jesus when I hear Bible stories.

## FIREFLY GLOW BOTTLE

**SUPPLIES:** “Glow Firefly” (pack item 27), cardstock (1 piece per child), empty water bottles (1 per child), colorful fuzzy chenille stems (1 per child), crayons or washable markers, glow sticks (1 per child), tape, scissors

**Extend:** additional glow sticks

- Copy a “Glow Firefly” (pack item 27) on cardstock for each child.
- Direct kids to decorate the fireflies. Guide them to cut out the fireflies when finished and tape them onto their water bottles.
- Give each child a glow stick. Help him to crack it, shake it (to get it to glow), and add it to the bottle.
- Invite kids to put the lids on their water bottles and twist chenille stems around the lids to make bug antennas.
- Say: “Our fireflies are glowing! They can remind us that we can shine a light to others by doing what the Bible teaches. We can love others, help others, obey our parents, and be kind to others.”

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Ask children to close their eyes while you hide a few glow sticks around the room.
- Encourage kindergartners to hunt for the sticks. Direct kids to say “Jesus is the Light of the world” when they find a glow stick.
- As time allows, let children take turns hiding the glow sticks for the group to find. (Glow sticks will shine brightly enough to keep the lights on during this activity.)

## ★ KID CONNECTION

I can do what the Bible teaches me to do.

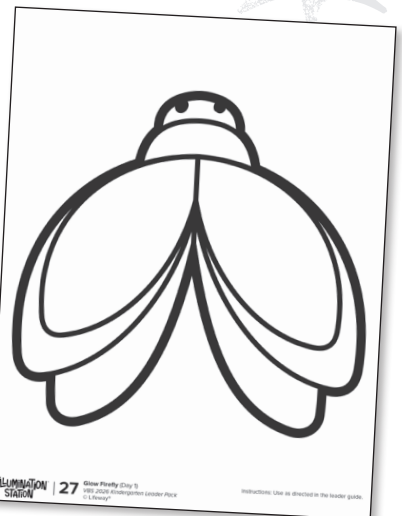
### PLAY A GAME TIP

Write each child’s name on a clothespin to use as a game piece.



### FIREFLY GLOW BOTTLE TIP

Cut the fireflies prior to the session.



# BIBLE—LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## BONUS ACTIVITY

### Decorate Names

- Index cards (1 per child)
- Markers
- VBS 2026 Theme Stickers* (9798384538158) or other theme stickers
- Painter's tape
- Flashlight
- Write each child's name on a separate index card.
- Write *Jesus* on an index card.
- Give each child the index card with his or her name written on it.
- Encourage kids to use the stickers and markers to decorate their name cards.
- Caution kids not to cover up their names so that their names can be seen.
- Gather the cards once they're finished. Display the cards (including the *Jesus* card) on the table or tape to a nearby wall. Pass around a flashlight and let each child shine a light on his name card. Suggest he say: "I am special. The spotlight is on me!"
- Say: "The most important person the spotlight will be on this week is Jesus!"
- Shine the light on the *Jesus* index card. Ask kids to repeat the Bible verse with you.

## TRANSITION TO ROTATION ACTIVITIES

- Ask kids to line up at the door. Place a leader at the front and back of the line for safety.
- Encourage children to act as if they're carrying flashlights as they travel to each rotation. Point out various objects for kids to shine their "lights" on (or use your own flashlight to point to objects).
- Take a list of children's names (and allergies/special needs) with you to check at each rotation and account for each child.

## MAKE LAVA LAMP BOTTLES

**SUPPLIES:** Allergy Alert (see p. 7 to download), Light Box (instructions found on pack item 31), 4 clear empty water bottles with lids, vegetable oil, water, 4 water droppers, small funnel, 4 colors of neon water-based paint, 4 effervescent tablets, pan to catch overflow, paper towels for clean up after the activity, *VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers* **Extend:** additional supplies to make one lava lamp bottle per child

- Post an Allergy Alert listing items kids will touch or come in contact with.
- Place the bottles in a pan with sides to catch overflow. Choose a child to use a water dropper to add drops of one color of the neon paint to a bottle. Add enough paint to cover the bottom of the bottle. Ask other kids to do the same with the remaining bottles.
- Guide kids to use the funnel to fill each bottle about two inches with water and fill the rest up with oil. Leave about an inch of space at the top of the bottle so it does not overflow.
- Add an effervescent tablet to each bottle.
- Play "Who Is Jesus?" and enjoy listening while watching the oil and water move in the lava lamps.
- Place the bottles on top of your light box to enhance the appearance of the lamps.
- Mention that lamps provide light that helps us see things. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Light of the world.
- Save the finished lava lamp bottles for use on Day 2.

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- If time allows, let each child make her own bottle to take home.

## ★ KID CONNECTION

I can know that Jesus is the Light of the world.

## IS IT A LIGHT SOURCE?

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, "Is it a Light Source?" (pack item 13), "Bible Marker" (pack item 18), flashlight (optional) **Extend:** "Bible Verse Poster" (pack item 8)

- Cut apart the "Is it a Light Source?" cards (pack item 13).
- Explain: "A light source is something that gives out light like the sun or a lamp."
- Lead kids to take turns choosing a card and deciding if the picture is a light source or not.
- Optional: Shine a "spotlight" (flashlight) on each picture to show kids each card. Direct the children to decide as a group where they want to place each picture.
- Mention that kids had to decide if the cards were light sources. The disciples had to decide who Jesus was.

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Shine the flashlight on the "Bible Verse Poster" and review the verse.
- Show the children where John 8:12 is in the Bible. Use today's "Bible Marker" (pack item 18) to mark the verse in the Bible. Let each child gently hold the Bible and look at the verse.
- Explain that even though Jesus does not "shine" like the light sources on the cards, the Bible tells us Jesus is the Light of the world.
- Invite kids to say the Bible verse together. Assist if needed.

## ★ KID CONNECTION

I can know that Jesus is God's Son.

## IS IT A LIGHT SOURCE?

### SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

Place a piece of neon painter's tape down the middle of the table. Label one side *yes* and the other side *no*. Distribute cards to kids. Call on kids one at a time. Ask: "Is it a light source?" She will answer and place her card on the corresponding column.

# CLOSING GROUP TIME

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, “Book: *I Know Jesus Loves Me!*” (pack item 9), “Bible Verse Cards” (pack item 14), “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21), “Bible Marker” (pack item 18), “Review Questions” (pack item 25), “Spotlight Theater Picture 1” (pack item 34), *VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers*, flashlight

## MOVE TO MUSIC

- Play “Who Is Jesus?”
- Tell the children you are going to give an instruction to follow while the music plays. Explain that during the song, kids need to listen to hear the next instruction.
- Instructions could include: take baby steps from one side of the room to the other, waddle like a penguin, hop like a bunny, slide your feet like a snail, walk in slow motion like a sloth, and so forth.

## REVIEW THE BIBLE VERSE

- Place today’s “Bible Marker” (pack item 18) at John 8:12. Open the Bible and read the verse.
- Mix up and spread the “Bible Verse Cards” (pack item 14) on the floor. Guide the children to find the first word of the Bible verse. (The card with only one light bulb.) Lay out that card as the first word of the verse.
- Continue to build the verse in order. Guide the children as needed. (If kids struggle, remind them to count the light bulbs on the cards to help know which card comes next.)
- Touch each card as the group says the verse together.
- Repeat the verse until most of the group can say the verse together.
- Sing “Light of the World.”

## REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Prepare the “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21) with the “Spotlight Theater Picture 1” (pack item 34) before showing the children.
- Say: “It’s time to shine a spotlight on our theater to remind us of what our Bible story was about.”
- Place the theater page in your lap so that it is facing the children. Shine the flashlight from behind the theater. (This should show the group the picture of Jesus and His disciples.)
- Use the “Review Questions” (pack item 25) to review the Bible story with the children.

## PRAY AND SING

- Pray and thank God for sending His promised Son, Jesus!
- Say: “Let’s sing today’s Bible story song again.” Sing to the tune of “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain.”
  - *Oh, Jesus is the promised Son of God*
  - *Oh, Jesus is the promised Son of God*
  - *Jesus asked His friend a question*
  - *And Peter knew the answer*
  - *He said “Jesus is the promised Son of God”*

## READ A BOOK

- Read the book “*I Know Jesus Loves Me!*” (pack item 9).
- Once the book has been read, flip through the book and ask the children to point out the light source on each page.
- Once the light sources have all been named, ask the children to look closer at the book to find a hidden firefly on each page.
- Ask: “When is a time you know that God is with you?”
- Sing the song: “*Jesus Loves Me.*”

## GROUP TIME PREP

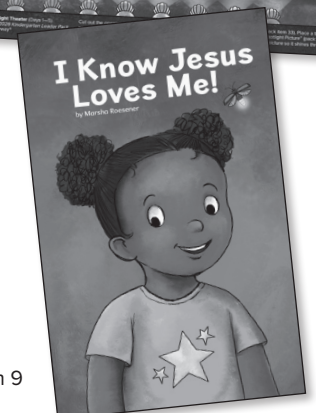
- Place the “Bible Marker” for Day 1 (pack item 18) in your Bible at John 8:12.
- Prepare the “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21) with the “Spotlight Theater Picture 1” (pack item 34).

## TIPS FOR DISMISSAL

- Follow your church’s plan for dismissal.
- Place each child’s personal belongings and take home items near the door.
- Position one leader near the door to greet parents while the others continue group time and games with the children.
- Thank parents for bringing their children to VBS!
- Tell each child that you are looking forward to seeing them tomorrow at VBS to learn about God’s perfect Son!



Item 21



Item 9



## DAY 2

# JESUS IS GOD'S PERFECT SON

### BIBLE STORY

#### The Baptism of Jesus

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

### BIBLE VERSE

Jesus said, "I am the light  
of the world."

*John 8:12 (paraphrase)*

### TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is God's perfect Son.

**Spotlight Question:** Was Jesus just an ordinary man?  
Jesus is the perfect Son of God who came to be the  
Savior of the world.

### LEADER DEVOTION

Children are often drawn to the tangible act of baptism before fully grasping its meaning and symbolism. As one of the two church ordinances that make theology visible and tangible, baptism is a powerful representation of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. However, while baptism comes after salvation, some children mistakenly associate it with salvation itself rather than recognizing it as an outward expression of their faith.

As we have opportunities to teach children about baptism, it is good to illuminate the fact that Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist served at least three key purposes, none of which involved salvation. Jesus did not need to repent or be saved from His sin because He was without sin. (See 2 Corinthians 5:21.) Instead, Jesus' baptism affirmed Him as the Son of God, marked the beginning of His public ministry, and set an example for believers.

Matthew 3:13-17 provides clear evidence to answer today's Spotlight Question: Was Jesus just an ordinary man? Jesus is the perfect Son of God, who came to be the Savior of the world. When Jesus asked John the Baptist to baptize Him, John pushed back, recognizing Jesus' greatness and even suggesting that John should be baptized by Jesus instead. Jesus' response to John revealed His identity as the Son of God. However, it was not just the words of Jesus that affirmed Jesus as God. All three persons of the Trinity made themselves known at Jesus' baptism. The Spirit of God descended like a dove and God's voice from heaven declared, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased" (verses 16-17).

Following the baptism of Jesus, Matthew 4 recounts the temptation of Jesus that occurred just before the public ministry of Jesus began and the disciples were first called to follow Him. Matthew 4:1 indicates it was the Spirit who led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Jesus

fasted for 40 days and 40 nights before the temptations began. God had a purpose for the baptism of Jesus as it demonstrated obedience to His plan for redemption and salvation. Notably, temptation followed His obedience—it was not a consequence of disobedience but rather a testimony of His unwavering faithfulness to live out His purpose.

Finally, the baptism of Jesus provides an example for all believers to follow. Through His baptism, Jesus modeled submission to God and provided a picture of what His death, burial, and resurrection would mean to all who follow Him.

The baptism of Jesus powerfully declared His identity as the perfect Son of God and His obedience to the Father's plan. Though sinless, Jesus humbly set an example for us. The voice from heaven and the presence of the Holy Spirit affirmed that He was no ordinary man—He is the perfect Son of God and the Savior of the world.

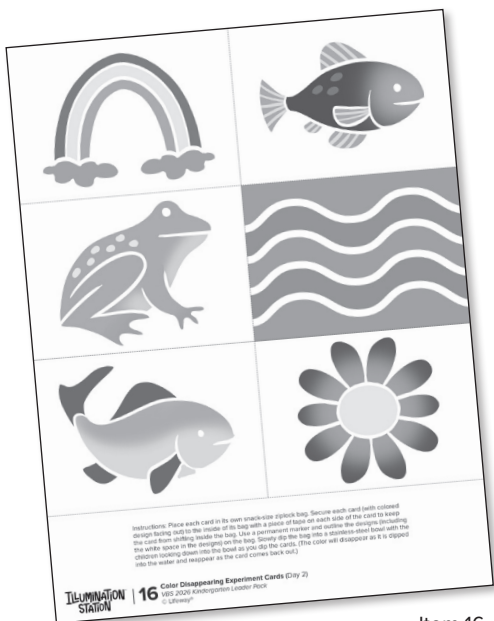
#### Illuminate Your Heart

- Have you followed Christ's example of submission by being baptized? If not, pray about setting up a meeting with a church leader.
- Is your focus on the perfect Son of God? If you are distracted and looking elsewhere, decide now to turn back to Him. He is eager to receive you. If your eyes are still on Him, worship Him afresh for what He has done for you.
- As you teach today's Bible story and reflect on Jesus' baptism, remember that baptism does not save you but is an important and meaningful act of obedience that follows your decision to ask for forgiveness of your sins and place your trust in Jesus.

## LIGHT BOX: PAINTING IN A BAG

**SUPPLIES:** Light Box (instructions found on pack item 31), 4 quart-size ziplock bags, 4 colors of neon paint, tape

- Fill four quart-size ziplock bags halfway with neon colored paint. Remove all the air from the bag, seal, and tape closed.
- Turn on the light box and tape the paint bags on top of the light box prior to the session. Encourage kids to gently use their fingers to draw on the bags. Suggest they draw a picture of a sun, a lightning bolt, a cross, or a heart.
- Say: “The light box makes our paint designs glow. The Bible teaches that Jesus is the Light of the world. We can let His light shine through us. This means people around us can see that we are doing what Jesus wants us to do.”
- Enhance your preschooler’s light box experience with any items that light can travel through. Bright colors show up best! Examples include: cups, lids, file folder dividers cut into shapes, straws, and large glass beads.



Item 16

## COLOR DISAPPEARING EXPERIMENT

**SUPPLIES:** “Color Disappearing Experiment Cards” (pack item 16), snack-size ziplock bags, stainless steel bowl with water, black permanent marker, large towel, hand towel

- Prepare the bags of cards before the session. (If a larger ziplock bag is used, tape the bag to fit tightly around the card.) Secure the card (with colored design facing out) to the inside of the bag with a piece of tape on each side of the card to keep the card from shifting inside the bag. Remove all air from the bag and seal. Use a black permanent marker to trace the white space of the design onto the outside of the bag.
- Place a large towel under the stainless steel bowl to absorb any water spills. Have a hand towel nearby.
- Allow the children to choose a card and push the card down into the water. Suggest they push the bottom of the card down and away from them, so that the top of the card is angled toward them.
- Point out to the preschoolers that the colors seem to disappear in the water. Pull the bag out of the water and show that the colors are still on the card.
- Explain that the water makes the light bend. This is called refraction. This causes the colors to reflect differently so that we cannot see them.
- Say: “We used water in our experiment today, and we are going to hear about something important that happened in water. Our Bible story is about the time when Jesus met John at a river.”

### ROOM PREPARATION

Prepare pack items (2, 6–8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18–21, 23, 25–26, 29, 31, 34, 38) according to the directions printed on each item.

### LIGHT BOX: PAINTING IN A BAG

- If your light box is small, four bags may not fit. You may need to make only one bag.
- If your light box is large, you may be able to fit more than four bags. Adapt to the size of your light box.

### COLOR DISAPPEARING EXPERIMENT TIP

Be sure to use a stainless steel bowl in order for this activity to work properly.



# GROUP TIME

## GROUP TIME SUPPLIES AND PREP

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture 2 (pack item 2)
- “Focal Wall” (pack item 6)
- “Focal Wall Add-on” for Day 2 (pack item 7)
- “Bible Verse Poster” (pack item 8)
- “Bible Marker” for Day 2 (pack item 18)
- “Search and Find Flashlight” (pack item 19)
- “Search and Find” (pack item 20)
- VBS 2026 Preschool Activity Book* (1 per child)
- VBS 2026 Memory Maker* (1 per child)
- VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers*
- Penny
- Eye dropper
- Clear plastic container filled half way with water
- Towel
- Items to sink or float
- Flashlight
- Place “Bible Marker” for Day 2 (pack item 18) in the Bible at John 1.

## STACK WATER ON A PENNY:

- Invite the children to join you for group time.
- Show kids a penny and a dropper filled with water. Ask the children how many drops of water they think a penny can hold.
- Place the penny on a flat surface where all the children can see. Challenge kids to count out loud with you as you add drops of water to the penny.

## INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

- Display a clear plastic container filled with water. Draw attention to the items gathered next to the container.
- Hold up an item and ask the children to decide as a group what will sink and what will float.

- Place the item in the water to test.
- Continue with all the items.
- Say: “Both of those experiments were fun! The water itself wasn’t special. The water we are about to talk about wasn’t special either, but something very special did happen in the water.”

## TELL THE BIBLE STORY

- Choose a child to open the Bible to today’s “Bible Marker” (pack item 18) in the book of John.
- Say: “Each day our Bible story comes from the Bible. The Bible is a very special book. Every word in the Bible is true!” Lay your Bible in your lap as you tell the Bible story.



## THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

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

John the Baptist was baptizing people. He would lower them in the water and bring them back up to show other people that they chose to follow God.

John said, “Someone is coming who is greater than I am—someone who is so important that I shouldn’t even untie His sandals.” The someone greater John was talking about is Jesus.

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. “I need You to baptize me,” John said. 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!”

Jesus was more than just an ordinary man. He is the perfect Son of God.”

# GROUP TIME

## RECALL THE BIBLE STORY:

- Display “Bible Story Picture 2” (pack item 2). Pass a flashlight to a child and ask her to shine it on the picture of Jesus. Ask kids to describe what they see in the picture.
- Teach the Day 2 Bible story song. Sing these lyrics to the tune “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain.”
  - Oh, Jesus is the perfect Son of God
  - Oh, Jesus is the perfect Son of God
  - He was baptized in the Jordan
  - By a man named John the Baptist
  - Oh, Jesus is the perfect Son of God
- Repeat the song a few times until most kids can sing with you.
- Ask: “Was Jesus just an ordinary man?” (*Jesus is God’s perfect Son.*)
- Use the “Search and Find Flashlight” (pack item 20) to focus in on the “Search and Find” picture (pack item 19). Show kids where the river icon is.
- Review how the river is related to the Bible story.

## BIBLE VERSE MEMORY TIME:

- Call attention to the “Bible Verse Poster” (pack item 8) and read the verse aloud.
- Lay out the “Bible Verse Cards” (pack item 14) in order. Say the verse aloud as a group.
- Remove one of the cards and encourage kids to say the verse.
- Continue to remove the cards one at a time until no cards remain. Challenge kids to say the verse.
- Sing “Light of the World.”

## TODAY’S POINT AND PRAYER

- Direct the children to look at the “Focal Wall” (pack item 6).
- Invite a child to lift the star add-on to show Today’s Point.
- Say the Point aloud and guide the children to repeat it after you: “Jesus is God’s perfect Son.”
- Invite the children to pray with you and thank God for sending His perfect Son, Jesus.

## SING TOGETHER

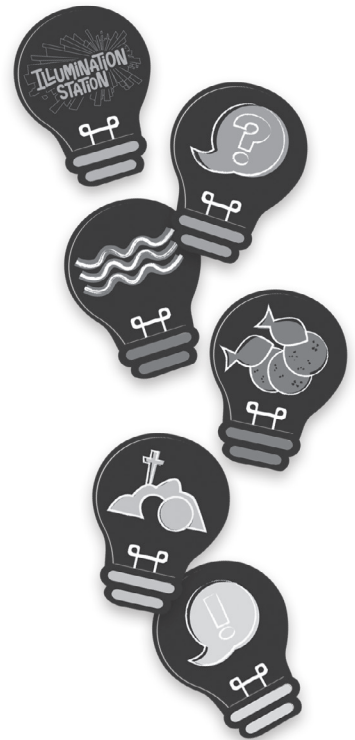
- Remind kids that Jesus wanted to be baptized because He wanted to obey God.
- Help kids know that we should also do what the Bible says. Comment that sometimes that is hard to do, but Jesus can help us.
- Play “I Can Be Like Jesus.”
- Encourage kids to sing and do the motions from page 48 with you.

## ACTIVITY BOOK AND MEMORY MAKER

- Turn to page 6 in the Activity Book. Complete the activity together.
- Give each child a Day 2 Memory Maker. Talk about the drawing of the river. Say that the picture can help preschoolers remember that Jesus was baptized in a river.
- Explain that Jesus wanted to be baptized because He knew that was what God wanted Him to do. Say Today’s Point: “Jesus is God’s perfect Son.”
- Guide the preschoolers to add the Day 2 tags to their Memory Maker bags. Gather the Memory Makers as you prepare to transition to other activities.

## TRANSITION TO BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Describe each Bible-learning activity.
- Lead kids to find a friend and choose an activity to do together.
- Ensure that all kids find someone to work with.



# BIBLE—LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## SENSORY BOTTLES TIP

Preparation for these bottles is involved, but these can be used at any time of the week if you have a child struggling or needing to calm down.

## SCAVENGER HUNT TIP

To play this game multiple times, place the “Scavenger Hunt Card” (pack item 10) inside a clear, plastic sleeve and use a dry erase marker to mark the items kids find. When they are finished, use a paper towel and clean off the marks on the plastic sleeve. Leave the card inside the plastic sleeve for the next time.

## SCAVENGER HUNT

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, “Scavenger Hunt Cards” (pack item 10), “Scavenger Hunt Checklist” (pack item 26, 1 per child), pencils or markers (1 per child), painter’s tape

- Prior to the session, hide the “Scavenger Hunt Cards” (pack item 10) around the room at a kindergartner’s eye level so that they are easily seen.
- Distribute a “Scavenger Hunt Checklist” (pack item 26) and pencil or marker to each child.
- Instruct kids to search around the room for the cards showing light sources. Explain that as they find the cards, kids should mark the box next to the items on their lists.
- Encourage kids to work together if you notice anyone struggling to find the cards.
- Explain that these are all items that help us see. Say: “Our Bible verse says that Jesus is the Light of the world. He can help us see and know what God is like.”

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- After all the items have been found, allow the children to name each item and discuss if it was made by God or made by a person.

## ★ KID CONNECTION

I can remember that Jesus is the Light of the world.

## SENSORY BOTTLES AND LIGHT BOX

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, light box, “Sensory Bottle Instructions” (pack item 38), water bottles, glittered pom-poms, water beads, baby oil, blue food color, water, 2 strong magnet wands, flashlights, magnetic items, glow sticks, lava lamp bottles made on Day 1  
**Extend:** “Optical Illusion” (pack item 29)

- Use the “Sensory Bottle Instructions” (pack item 38) to make several sensory bottles.
- Display the sensory bottles and the lava lamp bottles from Day 1. Suggest kids shake, flip, and turn the bottles.
- Ask children to describe what they see.
- Suggest that the children hold the sensory bottles up to let the ceiling light shine through them. Then do the same with the light box, flashlights, and then the glow sticks.
- Encourage kids to use the light sources to shine light up through the bottom of the bottles as well as the sides.
- Point out that the light helps us see better through the bottles. Remind kids that Jesus is the Light of the world, and He can help us better know what God is like.

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Set the “Optical Illusion” (pack item 29) behind a clear container filled with water.
- Encourage each child to come look through the container and turn the template to see the lines move.
- Suggest kids look around the room to see what else could be used to refract the light. (Suggest a pencil, scissors, a crayon, etc.) Encourage them to be creative and try different items.

## ★ KID CONNECTION

I can know that Jesus is God’s perfect Son.



Item 10

# BIBLE—LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## PAINT A PAPER TOWEL

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, paper towels (1 per child), painting smocks, paint, water dropper, disposable muffin pans or egg cartons, paintbrushes, water cups, *VBS 2026 Tablecloth* (9798384538189) or other table covering **Extend:** eye droppers, straws, (1 per child), white cardstock frame (1 per child), glue or tape, permanent marker or paint pen

- Provide each child with a painting smock or adult-size T-shirt. Cover the table. Place several colors of paint into disposable muffin tins or egg cartons.
- Let children take turns using the water dropper to add a few drops of water to the paint.
- As the children add the water, talk about when John baptized Jesus in the water.
- Suggest that kids dab the paint onto their paper towels. Caution them not to put too much paint in one spot so their paper towels will not tear.
- Encourage the children to use different colors and to fill the whole paper towel with paint (not leaving any white spots).

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Provide a straw and cardstock frame for each child.
- Drop paint on several places around the edges of the frame.
- Guide kids to blow gently through the straws to make the paint splatter.
- Glue or tape the paper towel art onto the back of the frame. Write the child's name and "Jesus is the Light of the world" onto the frame.

## ★ KID CONNECTION

I can remember that Jesus obeyed God when He was baptized.

## PASS THE WATER RELAY

**SUPPLIES:** "Bible Story Picture 2" (pack item 2), large plastic cups (1 per child), clear measuring cup, paper, towel

- Fill one plastic cup ½ way. Then pour it into the measuring cup to measure the starting amount.
- Distribute a cup to each child.
- Encourage the kids to help you decide how much water is in the measuring cup using the measurements on the side of the cup. Write down the starting amount.
- Direct the children to get in a relay line with their cups.
- Pour the water from the measuring cup into the first child's cup. That child will then turn around and pour the water into the cup of the child behind him.
- As he pours the water, he should say, "Thank you God for Jesus!"
- Each child will do the same until the last cup. That child will pour her cup of water back into the measuring cup.
- Have a towel nearby for spills. Fine motor skills are still developing at this point and spilling a little even makes it more fun!
- Ask the group to help you measure how much water is remaining. Compare the amount to the starting amount.
- Show "Bible Story Picture 2." Talk about Jesus being baptized in the water.

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Play the game again in reverse. Start with the child who was at the end of the relay line and continue until the water is back in the cup at the front of the line.
- Direct the last child to pour her cup into the measuring cup and see how much water is remaining.

## ★ KID CONNECTION

I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

## BONUS ACTIVITY

### Going to the River Game

- Bible
- "Bible Story Picture 2" (pack item 2)
- Display "Bible Story Picture 2" (pack item 2).
- Say: "Jesus was baptized in the river. What kinds of things do you think you might see when you go to a river? Maybe a frog, a turtle, or some rocks?"
- Explain the game. The first child will say, "I went down to the river and I saw a frog." The next child will say, "I went down to the river and I saw a \_\_\_\_." Then he will point back to the previous child who will then repeat what he saw.
- Continue until everyone has had a turn.

## TRANSITION TO ROTATIONS

- Ask kids to line up to move to rotations. Place a leader at the front and back of the line for safety.
- Instruct kindergartners to follow and obey the line leader (teacher) in whatever way she moves.
- Take a list of children's names (and allergies/ special needs) with you to check at each rotation and account for each child.

## PAINT A PAPER TOWEL SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

Dot markers can be used instead of paint and paintbrushes. Encourage children to dab away from each color dot.

## PASS THE WATER RELAY SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

When playing this game, cups with handles may assist students in holding the cup more steady and secure.



# CLOSING GROUP TIME

## CLOSING GROUP TIME PREP

- Prepare the “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21) with the “Spotlight Theater Picture 2” (pack item 34).

## TIPS FOR DISMISSAL

- Follow your church’s plan for dismissal.
- Place each child’s personal belongings and take-home items near the door.
- Position one leader at the door to greet parents while others continue group time and games with the children.
- Thank the parents for bringing their children to VBS.
- Tell children that you are looking forward to seeing them tomorrow at VBS to learn about God’s powerful Son!

**SUPPLIES:** “Bible and Movement Cards” (pack item 12, Movement Cards only), “Bible Verse Cards” (pack item 14), “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21), “Spotlight Theater Picture 2” (pack item 34), “Review Questions” (pack item 25), “Game Spinner” (pack item 23), *VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers*

## MOVE TO MUSIC

- Explain that when you hold up a “Movement Card” (pack item 12), the kids should move like the picture shown on the card.
- Comment that kids should do the same movement until you stop the music, and then you will show them a new card and give a new instruction.
- Play “Illumination Station” while playing the game.

## REVIEW THE BIBLE VERSE

- Randomly spread out the “Bible Verse Cards” (pack item 14) on the floor or table.
- Call attention to the “Bible Verse Poster” (pack item 8) and read it aloud. Guide children to put the verse cards in order. Kids may count the number of light bulbs on each card if help is needed.
- Once the cards are in the correct order, say the Bible verse together as a group.

## REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY:

- Prepare the “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21) with the “Spotlight Theater Picture 2” (pack item 34) before showing the children.
- Say: “It’s time to shine a spotlight on our theater to remind us of what our Bible story was about.”
- Place the “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21) in your lap so it is facing the

children. Shine the flashlight from behind the theater. This should show them the picture of Jesus in the water.

- Use the “Review Questions” (pack item 25) to review the story.

## PRAY AND SING

- Say: “Let’s sing today’s Bible story song! Sing these lyrics to the tune “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain.”
  - Oh, Jesus is the perfect Son of God
  - Oh, Jesus is the perfect Son of God
  - He was baptized in the Jordan
  - By a man named John the Baptist
  - Oh, Jesus is the perfect Son of God
- Pray and thank God for sending Jesus, His perfect Son!

## CHOOSE MOVEMENT CARDS

- Play music softly in the background while the children are playing.
- Allow kids to take turns using the “Game Spinner” (pack item 23) and choosing the “Movement Card” (pack item 12) that is the same color as shown on the spinner.
- Ask the kindergarten to show the card to the group. Direct kids to perform the movement shown on the card.
- Continue playing until parents arrive or it is time to go.

## CHOOSE MOVEMENT CARDS SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

For groups with a child with limited mobility, substitute movements to actions such as blink your eyes, make a silly face, give someone a smile, and so forth.



## DAY 3

# JESUS IS THE POWERFUL SON OF GOD

### BIBLE STORY

**Jesus Performed Miracles**  
*Matthew 15:29-39*

### BIBLE VERSE

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."  
*John 8:12 (paraphrase)*

### TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is the powerful Son of God.  
**Spotlight Question:** Was Jesus just a teacher? Everything Jesus said and did showed that He is the powerful Son of God.

### LEADER DEVOTION

Matthew 15:29-39 provides compelling evidence that Jesus was more than just a teacher—He is the powerful Son of God. Let's shed some light on this passage. This account takes place on a mountain near the Sea of Galilee, where large crowds gathered, bringing people who were in desperate need of healing.

Bringing those in need up a mountain to the feet of Jesus must have required physical effort and determination. Perhaps some people had already heard about the four friends who lowered a man who was paralyzed through a roof to receive Jesus' healing power (Mark 2:1-5). Regardless, their actions reflected their faith in Jesus' ability to heal.

The details of how Jesus healed each of them are left out. Scripture simply states, "They put them at his feet, and he healed them." It was not unusual for Jesus to heal multiple people in one setting, as the Gospels record several similar occasions (Luke 4:40, Matthew 9:35, Mark 6:56).

Following this incredible display of healing, another miracle occurred—one that impacted everyone present. Jesus was moved by compassion because the people had been with Him for 3 days and had nothing to eat. The disciples pointed out the obvious challenge: they were in a remote place with little access to food. When Jesus asked how much food they had, the disciples responded with just 7 loaves of bread and a few fish—hardly enough to feed more than 4,000 hungry people. Yet, as they were about to witness, in the hands of Jesus, a little is more than enough.

After Jesus took the loaves and fish, He gave thanks and then began breaking the bread to be given to the people by the disciples. The result? Matthew 15:37, "They all ate and were satisfied. They collected the leftover pieces—seven large baskets full." Jesus was no ordinary teacher; He is the powerful Son of God. He could do things no one else could,

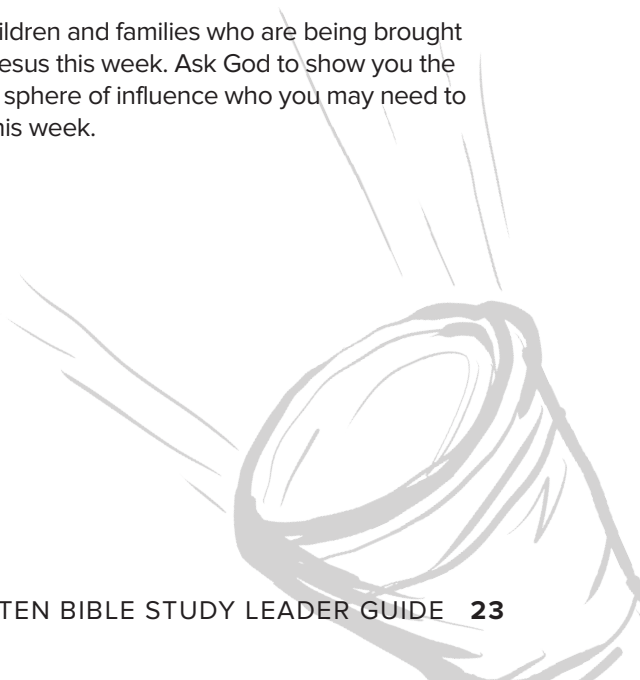
and the disciples often had a front-row seat to the miracles Jesus performed.

What must it have been like to see these miracles unfold—to watch people be healed and to see over 4,000 people fed from just 7 loaves and a few fish? In both instances, Jesus responded to a need by involving people in His work. In this event, Jesus did not go looking for people to heal. People took the initiative to come to Him. For the hungry crowd, Jesus used what was given to Him by the disciples to meet the needs of the multitudes.

As you prepare to teach children about the powerful Son of God, also look for ways to share this amazing truth in everyday conversation with your best friend or your hair stylist or your kid's baseball coach. Be prepared to give personal examples of how Jesus has proven to be powerful in your life. Never underestimate what God may want to do through your efforts to share the gospel with the people around you both inside and outside of VBS.

#### Illuminate Your Heart

- What are you doing to bring people to Jesus? Are you willing to give what you have when there are needs around you?
- Pray for the children and families who are being brought to the feet of Jesus this week. Ask God to show you the people in your sphere of influence who you may need to bring to VBS this week.



# INTRO ACTIVITIES

## ROOM PREPARATION

Prepare pack items (3, 6–8, 15, 17–21, 25, 30–31, 33, 35, 37) according to the directions printed on each item.

## LIGHT BOX: BIBLE VERSE COLOR STACK

Enhance your preschoolers' light box experience with any items that are translucent. Bright colors are the most fun. Examples are: cups, lids, file folder dividers cut into shapes, straws, large glass beads, large glass stones, sensory bottles, see through magnetic tiles, neon transparent cars

## GO FISHING TIP

- Test your fish and paper clips ahead of time to make sure the magnet is strong enough to lift the fish and the paperclip. Non-magnetic paper clips will not work.
- Keep the fish for use in future activities.

## LIGHT BOX: BIBLE VERSE COLOR STACK

**SUPPLIES:** Light Box (instructions found on pack item 31), translucent 3-ring binder dividers (5 different colors), black permanent marker, scissors

- Prior to the session, cut the transparent binder dividers into 3-by-5-inch rectangles (10 rectangles—2 of each color). Use a black permanent marker to write the Bible verse (one word on each rectangle): *Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." John 8:12.* Cut the leftover divider pieces into smaller squares.
- Review the Bible verse with the children. Direct them to say the Bible verse aloud. Then, remove one word at a time and guide them to say the verse. Finally, challenge them to say the Bible verse with all the rectangles removed.
- Direct the kids to put the verse in order on top of the light box. Give them some smaller colored squares (without words on them). Show the kids that stacking the squares will make different colors when the light shines through them.

## LIGHT BOX: BIBLE VERSE COLOR STACK SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

For kids who need to keep their fingers busy, write the Bible verse on a sheet of paper. Place sticky notes over each word. As one word is revealed, the child will pull hers off as well, recognizing the verses match one word at a time.

## GO FISHING

**SUPPLIES:** "Bible Verse Fish" (pack item 37), green cardstock, a wooden dowel, large metal paper clips, strong magnet, duct tape, string, blue plastic tablecloth, tape

- Prior to the session, copy the "Bible Verse Fish" (pack item 37) onto green cardstock and cut apart the fish. (Do not laminate as it will make the fish too heavy.) Attach a large paper clip at the "mouth" of each fish. Make several fishing rods. To assemble a fishing rod, tie a knot around the end of the dowel with the string. Cut the string keeping in mind the height of a preschooler. Wrap a piece of duct tape tightly around the knot and dowel to secure the string to the dowel.
- Tie a strong magnet to the end of the string.
- Place the blue tablecloth on the floor to create a "river" and place fish in the river.
- Lead the children to take turns fishing.
- Once all the fish have been caught, lead children to sort through the fish and find the fish that have Bible verse words on them. Challenge the group to work together to put the fish in order and say the Bible verse.

## BIBLE GAME

- Lead children to sit in a circle. Hand one child the paper plate with “Loaves and Fish” (pack item 30).
- Say: “In today’s Bible story, we will learn why seven loaves of bread and a few fish were so important!”
- Play “Things No One Else Can Do” and guide children to pass the plate around the circle.
- Explain that when the music stops, the child who is holding the plate is now “full” and gets in the center. Continue repeating the song until the last child is left holding the plate.

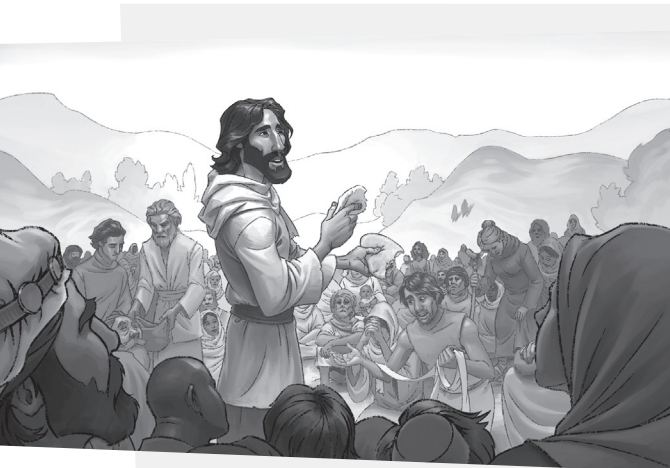
- Announce: “Everyone is full of bread and fish!”
- Direct kids to sit down as you tell the Bible story.

## TELL THE BIBLE STORY:

- Invite a child to open the Bible at the “Bible Marker” (pack item 18). Read the Bible story name.
- Say: “Each day our Bible story comes from the Bible. The Bible is a very special book. Every word in the Bible is true!” Lay your Bible in your lap as you tell the Bible story.

## SUPPLIES AND PREP

- Bible
- “Bible Story Picture 3” (pack item 3)
- “Focal Wall” (pack item 6)
- “Focal Wall Add-on” for Day 3 (pack item 7)
- “Bible Verse Poster” (pack item 8)
- “Bible Marker” for Day 3 (pack item 18)
- “Search and Find Flashlight” (pack item 19)
- “Search and Find” (pack item 20)
- “Loaves and Fish” (pack item 30)
- VBS 2026 Preschool Activity Book* (1 per child)
- VBS 2026 Memory Maker* (1 per child)
- VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers*
- Paper plate
- Make a copy of “Loaves and Fish” (pack item 30) and attach them to the paper plate. **Do not cut the original pack item.** (Laminate the fish and loaves for durability.)
- Place the “Bible Marker” for Day 3 (pack item 18) at Matthew 15.



## JESUS PERFORMED MIRACLES

*MATTHEW 15:29-39*

One day Jesus went up a mountain and sat down. A lot of people came to the mountain. Some people could not walk, talk, or see. Some people were sick in different ways. Since Jesus is God’s Son, He could make the people well. The crowd was surprised to see these people get well. They thanked God for healing the people!

Jesus felt sorry for the people in the crowd. He told His disciples (helpers), “These people have been here for three days, and they don’t have anything to eat. I don’t want to send them away hungry.”

The disciples said, “Where could we get enough food to feed so many people?”

Jesus asked, “How many loaves of bread do you have?”

“Seven,” the disciples said, “and a few small fish.”

Jesus told the crowd to sit down. He took the seven loaves of bread and the fish. Jesus thanked God for them, and He broke them into pieces. He handed the pieces to the disciples, who gave them to the people. Even though Jesus started with very little food, there was enough for everyone to eat until they were full. There were seven large baskets of leftovers! Jesus fed 4,000 men plus women and children that day.

Jesus was more than just a teacher. He could do things no one else could do because He is the powerful Son of God.

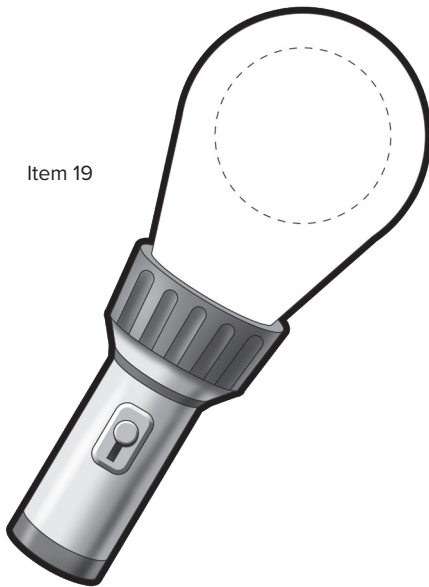


# GROUP TIME

## TRANSITION TO BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Describe each Bible-learning activity.
- Lead kids to say the following sentence with their names in the blank as they walk to their choice of activity. "Jesus loves \_\_\_\_\_."

Item 19



## RECALL THE BIBLE STORY

- Display "Bible Story 3" (pack item 3) and ask kids to help retell the story as you point to parts of the picture. (Point to Jesus holding the bread and ask kids what He is doing. Point to the food and ask where Jesus got the food. Ask how many loaves of bread were there or how many people were fed.)
- Teach the Day 3 Bible story song. Sing these lyrics to the tune "She'll Be Coming Around the Mountain."
  - Oh, Jesus is the powerful Son of God
  - Oh, Jesus is the powerful Son of God
  - He healed the sick and raised the dead
  - He fed the crowd with fish and bread
  - Oh, Jesus is the powerful Son of God
- Repeat the song a few times until children become familiar with it.
- Ask: "Was Jesus just a teacher?" (*No, Jesus is the powerful Son of God.*)
- Use the "Search and Find Flashlight" (pack item 19) to focus in on the "Search and Find" poster (pack item 20). Show kids where the fish and loaves picture is.

## BIBLE VERSE MEMORY TIME:

- Direct kids' attention to the "Bible Verse Poster" (pack item 8) and say the verse together.
- Set out the "Bible Verse Fish" (pack item 37) from Intro Activities. Guide kids to help put the fish in correct order. (Point out the matching shapes on the fish "faces" and "tails" if help is needed.)
- Ask kids to repeat the verse with you while everyone makes fish faces.
- Sing "Light of the World."

## RECALL THE BIBLE STORY SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

Ask kids questions about the Bible story using "Bible Story Picture 3" (pack item 3) as a guide to the answer. Instead of verbally answering the question, guide kids to draw their answers. (Ask 3–5 questions.)

## TODAY'S POINT AND PRAYER

- Direct the children to look at the "Focal Wall" (pack item 6).
- Invite a child to lift the campfire add-on to show Today's Point.
- Say the Point: "Jesus is the powerful Son of God." Lead the children to repeat the Point after you.
- Invite the children to pray with you to thank God for showing us how powerful Jesus is!

## ACTIVITY BOOK AND MEMORY MAKER

- Turn to page 11 in the Activity Book. Complete the activity together.
- Give each child a Day 3 Memory Maker. Talk about the drawing of the fish and bread. Say that the picture can help preschoolers remember that Jesus fed more than 4,000 people with just a few fish and 7 loaves of bread.
- Explain that this picture can remind kids that Jesus can do things no one else can do. Say Today's Point: "Jesus is the powerful Son of God."
- Guide the preschoolers to add the Day 3 tags to their Memory Maker bags. Gather the Memory Makers as you prepare to transition to other activities.

# BIBLE—LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## LIGHT SOURCE MATCHING GAME

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, “Light Source Matching Game” (pack item 15), scissors

- Cut apart the “Light Source Matching Game” cards (pack item 15) before the session. Laminate cards for durability.
- Mix up the cards and arrange them facedown on the floor or table.
- Invite the kids to play the matching game.
- Explain that when it is a child’s turn, she may turn over two cards to see if she has a match.
- If she finds a match, she can pick up those two cards and keep them until the end of the game.
- If the cards chosen do not match, she should turn those cards back over. It then will be the next child’s turn.
- Encourage kids to cheer for each other every time someone finds a match!

### EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Discuss how bright each of the light sources is.
- Ask which sources kids think would be the brightest.
- Suggest they work together to lay the cards out in the order of softest glow to the brightest light.
- Remind kids that the Bible tells us Jesus is the Light of the world.

### ★ KID CONNECTION

I can know that Jesus is the Light of the world.

### LIGHT SOURCE MATCHING GAME SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

Use neon painter’s tape to create a grid for the playing cards on the table. Ownership of space can eliminate behaviors escalating if cards become mixed up.

## LOAVES AND FISH BASKET TOSS

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, “Loaves and Fish” (pack item 30), cardstock, 9 beanbags, large basket, tape, scissors **Extend:** extra set of prepared beanbags and basket

- Prior to the session, copy the “Loaves and Fish” (pack item 30) onto cardstock and cut apart. Attach each piece to a beanbag. Tape down a “Start” line. Place the basket a few feet away from the line.
- Lead the children to form a line behind the taped line. Place the beanbags in a pile next to the kids.
- Direct kids to take turns tossing the “loaves” and “fish” into the basket.
- If a child tosses one of the loaves or fish outside the basket, guide her to go get it and hand it to the next child in line. Each child will get one toss during his or her turn.
- Play until all the beanbags are inside the basket. Repeat the game if necessary so that all kids get a turn.
- Say: “This game reminds us that Jesus used seven loaves of bread and a few fish to feed more than 4,000 people!”

### EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Make a second copy of the template to make another set of beanbags.
- Form two teams of kids. Start with a set of beanbags in each basket.
- In relay style, instruct the first child on each team to run to his team’s basket and grab a beanbag. He should then run back and place it in a pile next to his team’s line.
- The next child will then run to get the next one and bring it back. The first team to gather all the loaves and fish from its basket wins.

### ★ KID CONNECTION

I can know Jesus is powerful!



# BIBLE—LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## BONUS ACTIVITY

### Loaves and Fish Search

- “Loaves and Fish” (pack item 30)
- Cardstock
- Painter’s tape
- Scissors
- Copy and cut the “Loaves and Fish” (pack item 30).
- Prior to the session hide the loaves and fish pieces around the room.
- Invite kindergartners to hunt and find the pieces.
- Once all the pieces have been found, talk about the Bible story. Ask: “Why do you think there were seven baskets full of food leftover after everyone had eaten? They didn’t even start with one basket full of food!” (*Jesus has the power to do things no one else can do!*)
- As time allows, let kids take turns hiding the loaves and fish for each other to find.
- As each child takes his turn to hide the loaves and fish, suggest that he name a way kids should move as they hunt (hop like a bunny, take baby steps, take giant steps, etc.).

## TRANSITION TO ROTATION ACTIVITIES

- Ask kids to line up to move to rotations. Place a leader at the front and back of the line for safety.
- Encourage children to pretend to fish as they travel to each rotation.
- Take a list of children’s names with you. Check at each rotation to account for each child.

## FISH IN A BASKET

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, “Bible Verse Fish” (pack item 37), cardstock, straws (1 per child), 2 baskets, scissors

- Use the “Bible Verse Fish” (pack item 37) from the Intro Activities. Remove the paper clips. (Copy more if desired for a larger group.)
- Give each child a straw. Demonstrate how to pull in air through the straw and pick up a fish with the straw.
- Challenge kids to pick up the fish one by one and drop them in a basket using only the straw.
- Remind kids that the disciples picked up seven baskets of leftovers after Jesus fed the people!

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Form two teams. Separate the fish pieces into two equal piles.
- Place the fish on one end of the table and the baskets on the other end.
- Ask each team to line up behind a pile of fish.
- Using the same straws as before, challenge the teams to race to see which team can fill its basket with fish first.

## ★ KID CONNECTION

I can know Jesus can do things no one else can do.

## FISH IN A BASKET SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

If a child cannot operate the straw, prior to the session, place a few small self-adhesive magnets on the back of a few fish. Then give the child a magnet wand to see if he can pick up the fish and drop it in the basket with assistance.

## STAINED GLASS ART

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, white craft paper, painter’s tape, washable markers, **Extend:** acrylic sheets (such as cutting boards) or 3-ring binder dividers, hand wipes

- Use painter’s tape to make large and small triangles on a large piece of craft paper. Hang the paper on the wall at kindergartner eye-level (or place the paper on the floor).
- Offer the children a variety of colors of markers to color the craft paper. Direct them to work together to make a stained glass “window” on the paper. Suggest that they try not to get two of the same color beside one another.
- Talk about miracles Jesus performed in today’s Bible story as kids work.
- If possible, hold the paper up to a light source to show kids how the light makes the colors bright.

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Provide individual clear acrylic cutting boards or clear notebook dividers for each child.
- Suggest they use painter’s tape and markers to make their own designs on the boards.
- Use hand wipes to clean the marker off the acrylic boards or binder dividers between groups of kids.

## ★ KID CONNECTION

I can know that Jesus is God’s powerful Son.

# CLOSING GROUP TIME

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, “Flashlight Scene” (pack item 33), flashlight from “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21), “Book: *Thank You, God!*” (pack item 17), “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21), “Review Questions” (pack item 25), “Spotlight Theater Picture 3” (pack item 35), *VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers*, poster board, marker

## FLASHLIGHT IN A BAG

- Suggest that children take turns shining the flashlight into the ziplock bags.
- Sing “Things No One Else Can Do.”
- Explain that Jesus showed people that He is God’s Son by doing things that no one else has the power to do.

## REVIEW THE BIBLE VERSE:

- Remind children of how they said the Bible verse using fish faces earlier in Group Time.
- Add in new voices, such as a robot voice.
- As time allows, let kids offer suggestions for additional voices (slow-motion voice, whisper voice, shout voice, fast-forward voice, and so forth).

## REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY:

- Prepare the “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21) with the “Spotlight Theater Picture 3” (pack item 35) before showing the children.
- Say: “It’s time to shine a spotlight on our theater to remind us of what our Bible story was about.”
- Place the theater in your lap so it is facing the children. Shine the flashlight from behind the theater. This should show them the picture of the loaves and fish.
- Use the “Review Questions” (pack item 25) to review the Bible story with the children.

## PRAY AND SING:

- Thank God that Jesus fed the big crowd with such a small amount of food. Thank God that we can know that Jesus is the powerful Son of God. He can do things no one else can do.
- Say: “Let’s sing today’s Bible story song!” Sing these lyrics to the tune “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain.”
  - Oh, Jesus is the powerful Son of God
  - Oh, Jesus is the powerful Son of God
  - He healed the sick and raised the dead
  - He fed the crowd with fish and bread
  - Oh, Jesus is the powerful Son of God

## READ A BOOK AND BE THANKFUL

- Read the book: “*Thank You, God!*” (pack item 17) to the children. After reading the book, say that there is a glowworm hiding on each page and see if kids can find it.
- Ask: “What are some things you can thank God for?”
- Make a list of all the things the children say they are thankful for on a poster board. Display the list up in the room as a reminder.
- Thank God for sending His powerful Son, Jesus.

## CLOSING GROUP TIME PREP

- Prepare the flashlight from “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21). Add a paint stick or large craft stick to the back of the flashlight to make it longer.
- Prepare the “Flashlight Scene” bag (pack item 33). If you have a large group, prepare multiple bags to share.

## TIPS FOR DISMISSAL

- Follow your church’s plan for dismissal.
- Place each child’s personal belongings and take-home items near the door.
- Position one leader at the door to greet parents while others continue group time and games with the children.
- Thank the parents for bringing their children to VBS.
- Encourage children to learn that Jesus is alive!



Item 33



## DAY 4

# JESUS IS THE PROVEN SON OF GOD

### BIBLE STORY

#### Jesus Died and Rose to Life

Mark 14:43–16:7

### BIBLE VERSE

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

John 8:12 (paraphrase)

### TODAY’S POINT

Jesus is alive!

**Spotlight Question:** Was Jesus just someone who lived a long time ago? Jesus lived, died, and rose to life again to be our Savior, now and forever.

### LEADER DEVOTION

Do you remember the first time you heard the story of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection? If you grew up in a Christian home, it may be difficult to recall that moment, and you may have never questioned whether Jesus was more than just a man who lived a long time ago. For some children in your Vacation Bible School, this week may be the first time they encounter the life-changing truth of Jesus’ resurrection and the salvation He offers each of us.

If it is hard to imagine children in your classroom not knowing about Jesus, consider this: Over the past 25 years, 40 million people have stopped attending church.<sup>1</sup> As a result, church membership in America has dropped below 50 percent.<sup>2</sup> This means we can no longer assume that every child in Vacation Bible School is attending church regularly or has even heard the true story of Jesus. What if you are the first person to tell them the truth of the gospel? How does that impact the way you prepare for this session?

It’s not just children who have never heard about Jesus and who need convictional teaching this week—it’s also people who have heard about Him but are surrounded by a world that questions and devalues the life of Jesus. To navigate an increasingly post-Christian world, children need a biblical worldview that upholds the Bible as absolute truth. A 2022 study by George Barna found that only 18% of 13- and 14-year-olds listed the Bible as their primary source of truth<sup>3</sup> and 61% “either believe Jesus Christ sinned or may have sinned while He was on earth.”<sup>4</sup> It is important that we continually point children to the Bible as the source of all truth and show them the evidence found in the Scriptures to support Jesus as the proven Son of God.

Throughout this week, children will be having “light bulb moments” as they are learning who Jesus is and how His

life provides proof that He was more than just a teacher who lived a long time ago. Jesus did things no one else could do, like heal people who were sick or who had physical disabilities, provide sight to people who were blind, and turn a small amount of food into more than enough to feed the multitudes! He spoke with an authority no one had heard before. The ultimate proof came through the resurrection—the undeniable evidence that He is who He claimed to be.

#### Illuminate Your Heart

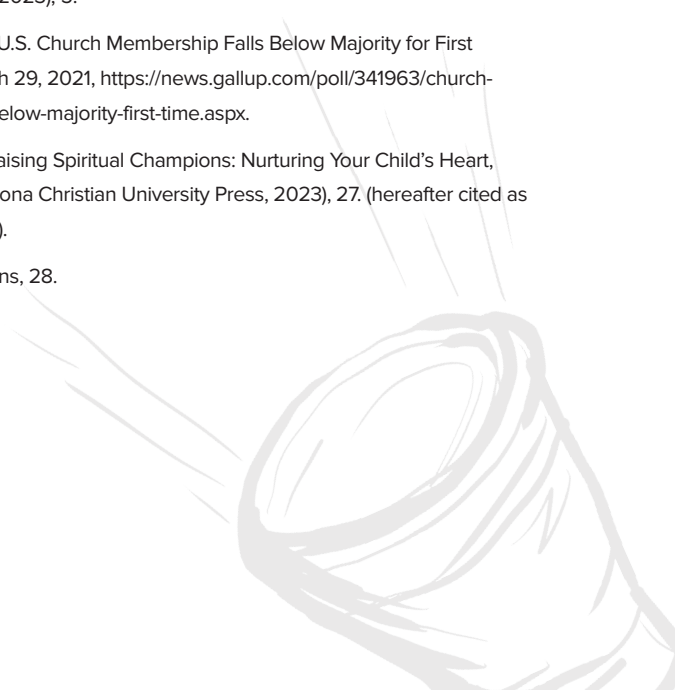
- How have you experienced Jesus personally? Thank Him for being present in your life.
- There could be no greater privilege than to tell children about the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Pray for the children in your care who may be hearing this story for the first time. Ask God to speak through you as you tell the good news of Jesus.

1. Jim Davis, Michael Graham, and Ryan P Burge. The Great Dechurching: Who’s Leaving, Why Are They Going, and What Will It Take to Bring Them Back? (Zondervan, 2023), 5.

2. Jefferey Jones, “U.S. Church Membership Falls Below Majority for First Time,” Gallup, March 29, 2021, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/341963/church-membership-falls-below-majority-first-time.aspx>.

3. George Barna, Raising Spiritual Champions: Nurturing Your Child’s Heart, Mind and Soul (Arizona Christian University Press, 2023), 27. (hereafter cited as Raising Champions).

4. Raising Champions, 28.



## LIGHT BOX: NEON RICE SENSORY BIN

**SUPPLIES:** Light Box (instructions found on pack item 31), neon colored rice (instructions on pack item 31), “Is It a Light Source?” (pack item 13), red and green construction paper (1 sheet of each color), clear plastic bin

- Prior to the session, write the word *yes* on the green construction paper and the word *no* on the red construction paper. Make neon rice following the instructions on pack item 31. (The rice will need several days to dry.) Place the neon rice into the clear plastic bin and bury “Is It a Light Source?” cards (pack item 13) in the rice. Place the bin on top of the light box.
- Place the *yes* and *no* pages on the table. Read the words and point out the colors of each.
- Guide kids to take turns finding the hidden cards. When a child finds a card, ask him if the picture is something that provides light or not. He should then place the card under either the *yes* (green) paper or the *no* (red) paper.
- Explain that light sources give us light so that we can see better. Add that the Bible tells us that Jesus is the Light of the world. Jesus helps us see better what God is like.
- Once all the light source cards have been found, suggest that kids write their names in the neon rice and see how the light shines through as they move the rice.

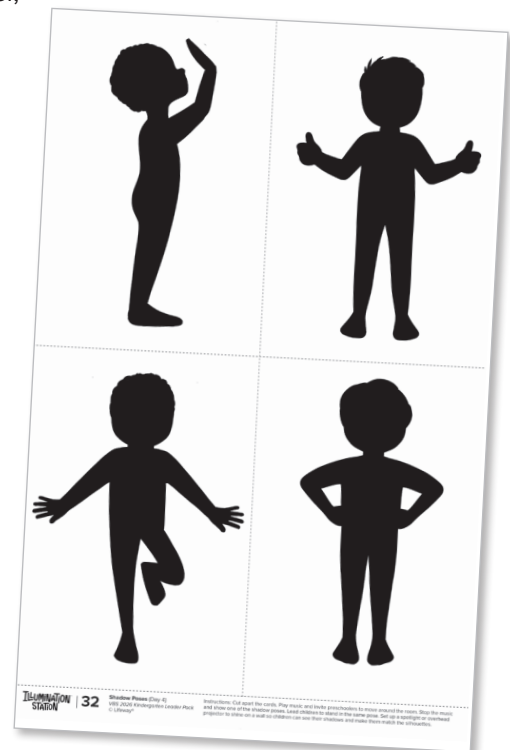
## CREATE SHADOWS

**Supplies:** “Shadow Poses” (pack item 32); large flashlight, spotlight, or overhead projector; hand puppets (optional)

- Project the light source onto a wall. Leave space between light and wall so children can stand between and make shadows.
- Display “Shadow Poses” (pack item 32).
- Invite preschoolers to stand in the light and create matching poses.
- Tell them to explore how to make other shadow poses. Offer puppets for children to use to create additional shadows.
- Suggest other poses for children: pose like you are playing baseball; pose like you are a ballet dancer, and so forth.
- Suggest children pose like the Bible stories: pose like you are Jesus teaching; pose like you are John baptizing someone; pose like you are eating bread from Jesus.

### ROOM PREPARATION

- Prepare pack items (4, 6–8, 12–14, 18–21, 23, 25, 31, 32, 35) according to the directions printed on each item.



Item 32



# GROUP TIME

## SUPPLIES AND PREP

- Bible
- “Bible Story Picture 4” (pack item 4)
- “Focal Wall” (pack item 6)
- “Focal Wall Add-on” for Day 4 (pack item 7)
- “Bible Marker” for Day 4 (pack item 18)
- “Bible Verse Cards” (pack item 14)
- “Search and Find Flashlight” (pack item 19)
- “Search and Find” (pack item 20)
- VBS 2026 Preschool Activity Book* (1 per child)
- VBS 2026 Memory Maker* (1 per child)
- VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers*
- Tray
- 6 plastic cups
- Memory Makers for Days 1–4
- Small rock
- Sticky notes
- Place the “Bible Marker” for Day 4 in the Bible at Mark 14.
- Prior to group time, place the cups upside down in a row on a tray. Place the Memory Maker tags and rock under 5 of the cups. (Place the tags in day order under cups 1–4, with the rock under the 5th. The 6th cup should remain empty at the end of the row.)
- Cover “Bible Story Picture 4” (pack item 4) with sticky notes.

## FREEZE DANCE

### SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

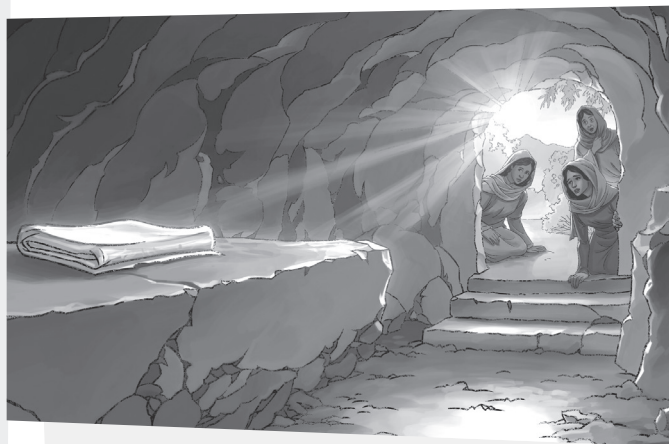
If a child is in a wheelchair, guide children to place their chairs in a circle leaving distance between them so the wheelchair can fit in between the chairs. When the music begins, kids will get up from their chairs and begin to move around. When the music stops, kids find a chair and sit down (freeze). The person who is in a wheelchair will move places also.

## FREEZE DANCE

- Play “Illumination Station.” Lead kids to move around and dance while the music is playing. Explain that when the music stops they should FREEZE in their spots.
- When the music plays again, kids should start moving again.

## INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY:

- Draw attention to the six cups in front of you. One by one, turn the cups over.
- Discuss the icon on each tag to remind kids of the Bible stories they have heard this week.
- When the fourth cup is turned over, mention that this tag shows what the Bible story is about today.
- Show the rock that is under the fifth cup.



## JESUS DIED AND ROSE TO LIFE

*MARK 14:43-16:7*

Jesus did so many things that showed He is the powerful Son of God—things no one else could do. He made people who were blind be able to see. He healed people who couldn't walk or talk. He fed 4,000 people with a small amount of food. People saw and heard about these

things and began to follow Jesus. 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, a man named Joseph of Arimathea (AR ih muh THEE uh) placed His body in a tomb.

Three days after Jesus died and was buried, some women went to the tomb very early in the morning. 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! Go and tell His disciples.”

Jesus is not just someone who lived a long time ago. He has always been with God. This is important for us because He lived, died, and rose to life again to be our Savior, now and forever.

Direct kids to listen carefully to the story to hear when a stone is mentioned.

- Say: “This last cup is empty! In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about something else that was empty!”

## TELL THE BIBLE STORY:

- Choose a child to open the Bible at the marker. Mention that the marker shows where today's Bible story is found—the book of Mark, chapter 14.
- Say: “Each day our Bible story comes from the Bible. The Bible is a very special book. Every word in the Bible is true!”
- Lay the open Bible in your lap as you tell the Bible story.

## REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Place the “Bible Story Picture 4” (pack item 4) on the floor or hold it up in front of the group.
- Guide children to take turns one by one removing a sticky note from the picture.
- Ask the group to guess what the picture might be.
- Once all the sticky notes are removed briefly discuss what the picture shows from today’s Bible story.
- Teach today’s Bible story song. Sing these lyrics to the tune “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain.”
  - Oh, Jesus is the proven Son of God
  - Oh, Jesus is the proven Son of God
  - They laid Him in a tomb that day
  - But soon the stone was rolled away
  - Oh, Jesus is the proven Son of God
- Ask: “Was Jesus just someone who lived a long time ago?” (*No, Jesus is alive!*)
- Use the “Search and Find Flashlight” (pack item 19) to focus in on the “Search and Find” poster (pack item 20). Show kids where the empty tomb picture is.

## BIBLE VERSE MEMORY TIME:

- Place the “Bible Verse Cards” (pack item 14) in order on the floor in front of the kids.
- Lead the group to say the memory verse.
- Ask one child to remove one of the cards.
- Ask the group to say the verse again.
- Continue guiding the children one at a time to remove a card and say the verse between each child’s turn.
- Sing “Light of the World.”

## TODAY’S POINT AND PRAYER

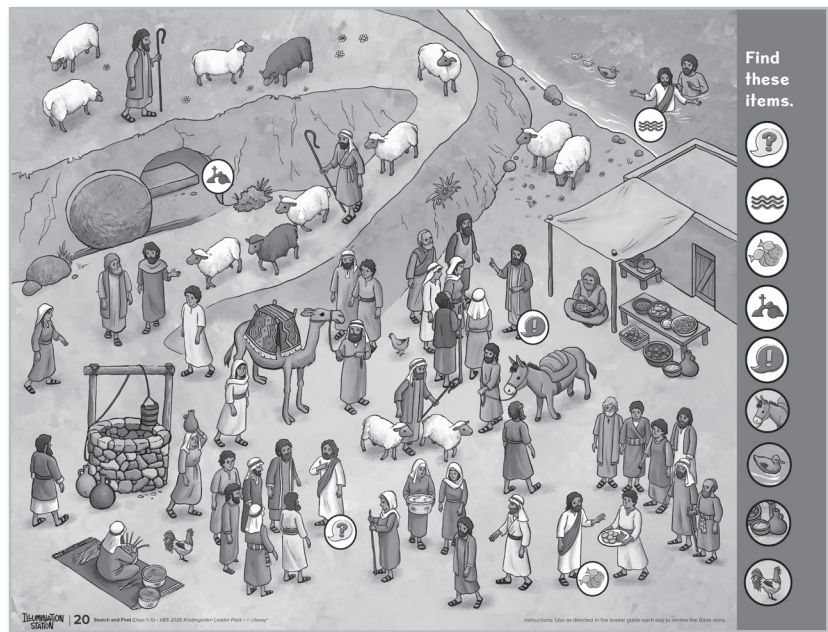
- Direct the children to look at the “Focal Wall” (pack item 6).
- Invite a child to lift the firefly flap on the to show Today’s Point.
- Read the Point and ask the children to repeat it after you: “Jesus is alive!”
- Invite the children to pray with you and thank God that Jesus is alive!

## ACTIVITY BOOK AND MEMORY MAKER

- Turn to page 14 in the Activity Book. Complete the activity together.
- Give each child a Day 4 Memory Maker. Talk about the drawing of the empty tomb. Say: “This picture can help us remember that Jesus died and was placed in a tomb, but He rose to life again. Jesus is alive!”
- Guide the preschoolers to add the Day 4 tags to their Memory Maker bags. Gather the Memory Makers as you prepare to transition to other activities.

## TRANSITION TO BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Shine a flashlight on each activity as you describe the Bible-learning activities.
- Lead kindergartners to tiptoe to the activity of their choice.



Item 20

# BIBLE—LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## GLOW RING TOSS TIP

- Be sensitive to preschoolers who have not attended every day.
- Suggest that kids can ask a friend for help, or try to ask new children only Day 4 questions.
- Substitute plastic pool rings if glow necklaces are not available.

## CREATE A DESIGN WITH NEON CRAYONS TIP

- Caution kids to color gently across the tape so it doesn't curl and lift up.



## GLOW RING TOSS

**SUPPLIES:** “Review Questions” for Days 1–4 (pack item 25), 2-liter drink bottles (3), water, glow sticks, glow necklaces, brightly colored index cards, permanent marker, tape

- Prior to the session, fill three 2-liter bottles with water. (Remove the labels.) Write *Jesus*, *is*, and *alive* on index cards, one word per card. Tape one index card to each bottle.
- The day of the activity activate the glow sticks and add one to each bottle. Position the bottles in order to say: *Jesus is alive*. Place them so that the index cards are facing the children.
- Ask children to line up one behind the other a few feet away from the bottles. Ask the first child in line a question from the “Review Questions” for days 1–4 (pack item 25).
- Challenge kids to toss three rings with the goal of getting one ring on each bottle. After a kindergartner has tossed the rings, direct him to go get the rings and bring them back for the next child.

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Once all the children have had a turn, play the game again. This time, challenge them to say the Bible verse.

## ★KID CONNECTION

I know Jesus is alive!

## CREATE A DESIGN WITH NEON CRAYONS

**SUPPLIES:** black construction paper (1 piece per child) painter's tape; Crayola® Bold & Bright Construction Paper Crayons; paint pen or white metallic permanent marker

**Extend:** additional black construction paper

- Prior to the session, use painter's tape to make a cross on each piece of construction paper.
- Lead the children to color on the paper with several brightly colored crayons.
- Encourage kids to color on top of the tape as well as around it.
- Remove the tape after the children have finished covering the page with the crayons (especially around and over the tape).
- Draw attention to the cross shape that was left on the paper.
- Use a white paint pen or a metallic permanent marker to write “Jesus is the Light of the world!” on each child's paper.

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- As children finish the cross artwork, offer additional pieces of black construction paper.
- Encourage kids to draw nighttime pictures or other designs as they wish with the crayons.

## ★KID CONNECTION

I can remember that Jesus is the Light of the world.

# BIBLE—LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## MAKE EMOTION FACES

**SUPPLIES:** solid white paper plates, markers or crayons

- Prior to the session, draw 4–5 emotion faces on separate plates (happy, sad, excited, afraid, silly, and so forth).
- Distribute a paper plate to each child.
- Show the examples to the children.
- Direct children to practice making each of the expressions with their own faces.
- Encourage kindergartners to draw any emotion they would like to make.
- Suggest that kids draw eyes, a nose, and a mouth. Explain that the mouth can show being happy with a smile, sad with a frown, or surprised with an O. A silly face could include a silly tongue sticking out, or an angry face might have scrunched up eyebrows and a zigzag frown.
- Say: “How do you think the disciples looked when they found out that Jesus is alive?”
- Remark: “It makes me happy to know that Jesus is alive!”

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Ask a child to hold her plate in front of her face and speak with the type of voice that matches the emotion she made.
- If time allows, let children make additional emotion plates.

## ★KID CONNECTION

I am happy to know that Jesus loves me.

## MAKE EMOTION FACES SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

Prepare some premade eyes, noses, and mouths ready to glue on the paper plate. Eyes, nose, and mouth stickers could also be purchased and distributed to children who struggle with drawing.

## PLAY A GAME

**SUPPLIES:** “Game Spinner” (pack item 23), “Bible and Movement Cards” (pack item 12, Bible Cards only), marker **Extend:** “Bible Verse Poster” (pack item 8), index card-size rectangles made from construction paper in the same 5 colors as on the spinner, flashlight

- Choose a child to spin the spinner. Once the spinner stops, read the statement from the card that is the same color the spinner landed on.
- If a child is hesitant, suggest that he can ask the group to join him in answering.

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Prior to the session, write the following actions on the construction paper cards (or create your own).
  - Shine the flashlight on your toes.
  - Shine the flashlight on something the same color the spinner landed on.
  - Shine the flashlight on a friend’s shoes (not his face or eyes) and say his name.
  - Shine the flashlight on the “Bible Verse Poster” (pack item 8).
  - Shine the flashlight on a Bible.
- Play the game again. When the spinner stops on a color, read the statement on the new card. Give the child a flashlight and instruct her to do what is on the card.

## ★KID CONNECTION

I can tell what I know about Jesus.

## PLAY A GAME SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

Divide a large hula hoop into four different color sections. Use bulletin board paper to cover the four sections and create a color wheel. Place the hula hoop on the floor or table. Make a large spinner and place in the center. Gently spin the spinner to see which color it lands on and read the statement from the card that matches the color on the color wheel.

## BONUS ACTIVITY

### What’s Missing?

- Large tray or pan
- Small objects from around the room such as a marker, crayon, small Bible, glow stick, stack of sticky notes, and so forth
- Towel
- Lay the objects on the tray. Instruct the children to study and try to remember all the items on the tray. Then ask kids to turn around and close their eyes.
- Use the towel to cover and remove an item from the tray. Hide it behind you.
- Direct children to turn around and open their eyes.
- Ask: “What is missing?”
- Once someone guesses correctly, return the item to the tray and play the game again.
- After a few rounds of play, choose a child to come help remove an item.
- Play until every kid has had a turn to remove an object.
- Say: “In our Bible story, Jesus was missing from the tomb! Jesus is alive! We can tell everyone about Jesus.”

## TRANSITION TO ROTATION ACTIVITIES

- Lead children to line up for rotations. Place a leader at the front and back of the line for safety.
- Hand the line leader a flashlight to hold and lead the way to the first rotation. Choose a different line leader each time the group moves to a new rotation.
- Take a list of children’s names with you for emergency info and check at each rotation to account for each child.



# CLOSING GROUP TIME

## CLOSING GROUP TIME PREP

Place the “Bible Marker” for Day 4 (pack item 18) at John 8:12.

## TIPS FOR DISMISSAL

- Follow your church’s plan for dismissal.
- Place each child’s personal belongings and take-home items near the door.
- Position one leader at the door to greet parents while others continue group time and games with the children.
- Thank the parents for bringing their children to VBS.
- Tell each child that you are looking forward to seeing them tomorrow at VBS to learn about God’s plan for forgiveness!

**Supplies:** “Bible Verse Cards” (pack item 14), “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21), “Game Spinner” (pack item 23), “Bible and Movement Cards” (pack item 12, Movement Cards only), “Bible Marker” (pack item 18), “Review Questions” (pack item 25), “Spotlight Theater Picture 4” (pack item 35), flashlight, *VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers*

## SPIN AND MOVE

- Guide children to sit in a circle. Place the “Game Spinner” (pack 23) and “Bible and Movement Cards” (pack item 12, “Movement Cards” only) in the center of the circle.
- Invite a child to come to the center of the circle to use the spinner. When the spinner stops, the child should lead the group in doing the motion from the “Movement Card” that matches the color on the spinner.
- Repeat until all kids have had a turn using the spinner.

## REVIEW THE BIBLE VERSE:

- Invite children to put together the “Bible Verse Cards” (pack item 14).
- Say the Bible verse together.
- Show your Bible. Ask a child to gently open the Bible to where the “Bible Marker” (pack item 18) is located.
- Tell kids that the Bible has two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- Say: “Our Bible verse and stories this week are found in the New Testament. All the stories in the Bible are true.”

## REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY:

- Prepare the “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21) with the “Spotlight Theater Picture 4” (pack item 35) before showing the children.
- Say: “It’s time to shine a spotlight on our theater to remind us of what our Bible story was about.”
- Place the theater in your lap so it is facing the children. Shine the flashlight from behind the theater. This should show them the picture of Jesus outside the tomb. Say: “Jesus is alive!”
- Use the “Review Questions” (pack item 25) to review the story.

## PRAY AND SING:

- Say: “Let’s sing today’s Bible story song!” Sing these lyrics to the tune “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain.”
  - Oh, Jesus is the proven Son of God
  - Oh, Jesus is the proven Son of God
  - They laid Him in a tomb that day
  - But soon the stone was rolled away
  - Oh, Jesus is the proven Son of God
- Pray and thank God that Jesus is alive!

## CLOSING ACTIVITY:

- Lead kids to gather in a circle.
- Play “Illumination Station” (or another favorite song from the week) as you pass a flashlight around the circle.
- Stop the music periodically and choose a kindergartner to tell his favorite activity from the day.
- Continue until parents arrive or it is time to dismiss.



## DAY 5

# JESUS IS GOD'S PLAN FOR FORGIVENESS

### BIBLE STORY

**Peter Preached About Jesus**

*Acts 2*

### BIBLE VERSE

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

*John 8:12 (paraphrase)*

### TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is God's plan for forgiveness.

**Spotlight Question:** Why do I need to respond to Jesus? Jesus is the only way to receive God's forgiveness.

### LEADER DEVOTION

This week, the focus has been on helping children discover the answer to a spotlight question each day. These questions have laid the foundation for children to consider Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Today's kids will hear the message Peter preached that immediately led over three thousand people to see their need for a Savior. So now the spotlight will turn to each child with a deeply personal question: Why do I need to respond to Jesus?

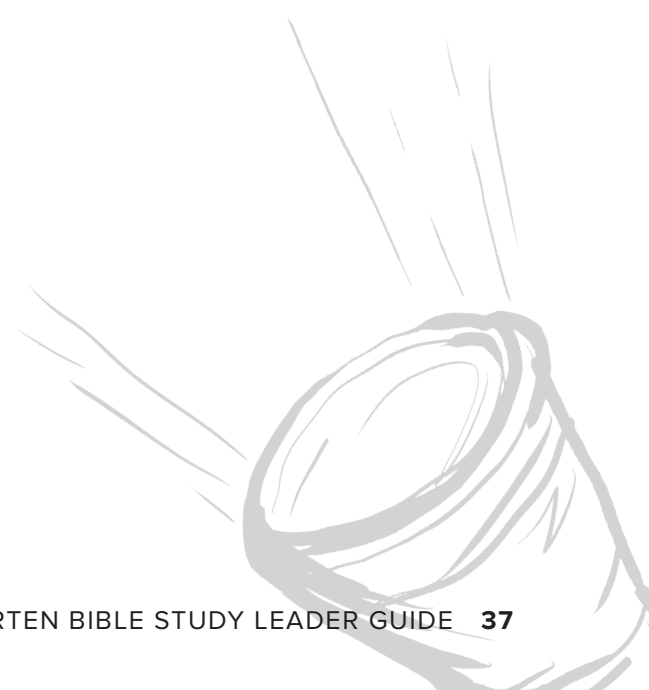
Recognizing and believing Jesus is a great teacher, a powerful performer of miracles, and a compassionate servant leader is easy for most of us. The Bible is full of events that lead us to those conclusions. However, James 2:19 reminds us, "You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe—and they shudder." Unless we also acknowledge our desperate need for Him as our Savior—the One who willingly died for our sins and offers forgiveness—we miss the good news of who He truly is. Without Him, we deserve the punishment of death for our sins. In Him, we find grace, redemption, and forgiveness only He can bring.

Children need to understand why they need forgiveness to know why they need to respond to Jesus. Recognizing personal sin is one of the signs a child is ready to decide to follow Jesus. Children must know what sin is and the problem it causes for their relationship with God. Children often define sin as a wrong choice like disobeying parents, cheating on a test, or fighting with a sibling. While those wrong choices are sin, the result of that sin makes them unable to have a relationship with a holy and perfect God. A simple definition of sin that children can easily understand is "anything we think (point to your head), anything we say (point to your mouth), or anything we do (hold out your hands) that does not please God." When children understand the impact of their sin—it separates them from God—they are often ready to answer today's spotlight question: Why do I need to respond to Jesus?

For over one hundred years, the purpose of Vacation Bible School has been to share the gospel with children so that they can understand their need for forgiveness and respond to Jesus. There is no other program, ministry, or movement that has been as effective at reaching children with the gospel than VBS. The Holy Spirit may be opening the hearts and minds of preschoolers to understand that Jesus is God's plan for forgiveness.

#### Illuminate Your Heart

- Have you experienced the Holy Spirit piercing your heart in conviction and leading you to repentance? (See Acts 2:37.) When was the last time you were grieved over your sin?
- Spend some time in prayer for each of the children in your care. Ask God to help them begin to understand their need for Jesus.



# INTRO ACTIVITIES

## ROOM PREPARATION

Prepare pack items 5–9, 11, 14, 17–21, 24–25, 28, 31, 36) according to the directions printed on each item.

## LIGHT BOX TIP

Tape straw pieces to index cards to show patterns kids can copy.

## LIGHT BOX: STRAW BUILDING WITH PLAY DOUGH

**SUPPLIES:** Allergy Alert (see p. 7 to download), Light Box (instructions found on pack item 31) neon colored straws (cut some into 1-inch sections and some into various smaller sizes), neon colored play dough, glow sticks, paper, marker

- Post an Allergy Alert listing the ingredients.
- Prior to the session, write the name *JESUS* on a piece of paper.
- Lay the paper onto the light box. Encourage kids to use the straw pieces to outline the name.
- Demonstrate how to use the play dough to connect the straws or glow sticks together. Direct children to use small amounts of play dough as bases for the straws.
- Suggest that kids could spell their names, build a tower, or make a maze using the straws and glow sticks.
- Encourage preschoolers to be creative and have fun!
- As time allows, encourage children to make patterns with the straw pieces.

## LIGHT BOX: STRAW BUILDING WITH PLAY DOUGH SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

For kids who have allergies or sensory issues with play dough, offer wax craft sticks or pipe cleaners and encourage the children to spell the word *Jesus* or other words from the Bible story.

## CHURCH BLOCK BUILDING

**SUPPLIES:** “Church Building Cards” (pack item 24), blocks

- Lay the “Church Building Cards” (pack item 24) with the blocks.
- Challenge kindergartners to match the patterns on the cards.
- Suggest that children work together as a group on some of the bigger church card ideas.
- Encourage kids to use the blocks to create their own church designs.
- Suggest they use their blocks to make a sidewalk leading up to the church or to make furniture inside the church.
- Explain that not all churches look alike. Some churches meet in homes and some even meet outside!
- As the children build with blocks, mention to the children that church is a happy place.
- Say: “At church we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to show how much He loves us.”
- Discuss with the kids about things that happen at church. Mention that people sing songs, take up an offering, and listen to the pastor teach about God at church.



Item 24



# GROUP TIME

## SING AND MOVE

- Welcome kids to group time.
- Introduce the song, “Bright In Me.” Encourage kids to sing and do the motions on page 50 along with you.

## PLAY A BIBLE DESIGN GAME:

- Lay the prepared “Bible Story Projection Designs” (pack 28) facedown in a grid on the floor.
- Choose a child to turn over two cards. If the cards match, instruct the child to hold her matching pair. If the cards do not match, she should turn the cards back over.
- Continue the game until all the pairs of cards have been matched.
- Briefly review the week’s stories using the pictures from the matched cards.

## INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “Help me think of things that happen while we are at church.” (*Answers might*

*include: sing songs, take up an offering, listen to music, listen to the pastor or teacher.*)

- Say: “Good job! One of the most important parts of coming to church is learning about Jesus and what God wants us to do.”
- Continue: “In today’s Bible story, Peter and the disciples were preaching to the people in a big crowd. They were helping people learn about Jesus.”

## TELL THE BIBLE STORY:

- Choose a child to open the Bible to today’s “Bible Marker” (pack item 18) at Acts 2.
- Say: “Each day our Bible story comes from the Bible. The Bible is a very special book. Every word in the Bible is true!”
- Lay your Bible in your lap as you tell the Bible story.

## SUPPLIES AND PREP

- Bible
- “Bible Story Picture 5” (pack item 5)
- “Focal Wall” (pack item 6)
- “Focal Wall Add-on” for Day 5 (pack item 7)
- “Bible Verse Poster” (pack item 8)
- “Bible Verse Cards” (pack item 14)
- “Bible Marker” for Day 5 (pack item 18)
- “Search and Find Flashlight” (pack item 19)
- “Search and Find” (pack item 20)
- “Bible Story Projections Designs” (pack item 28)
- *VBS 2026 Preschool Activity Book* (1 per child)
- *VBS 2026 Memory Maker* (1 per child)
- *VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers*
- 10 cups
- Brightly colored tissue paper
- Rubber bands (10)
- Place the “Bible Marker” for Day 5 in your Bible at Acts 2.
- Print two copies of the “Bible Story Projection Designs” (pack item 28) onto copy paper. Glue the copies onto black or blue cardstock so the cards cannot be seen through. Cut apart the cards.
- Place one “Bible Verse Card” (pack item 14) in each of the 10 cups. Cover the top of each cup with brightly colored tissue paper and secure with a rubber band.



## 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. People were confused about what was happening.

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. (They saw Jesus make sick people well and feed many people with just a little food.) 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!

## INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

Draw a simple outline of a church on a poster board. Write kids’ responses on sticky notes and allow children to place their sticky notes on the church.



# GROUP TIME

## TRANSITION TO BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Describe each Bible-learning activity.
- Pair up kids. Ask the pair to say the Bible verse together as they move to an activity.

## REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Display “Bible Story Picture 5” (pack item 5) and ask a question about what you see in the picture.
- Teach the Day 5 Bible story song. Sing these lyrics to the tune “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain.”
  - Oh, Jesus is God’s plan for everyone
  - Oh, Jesus is God’s plan for everyone
  - Even though we make wrong choices
  - Jesus promised to forgive us
  - Oh, Jesus is God’s plan for everyone
- Repeat the song a few times until it is familiar to the children.
- Ask: “Who is God’s plan for forgiveness?” (*Jesus*)
- Use the “Search and Find Flashlight” (pack item 19) to focus in on the “Search and Find” poster (pack item 20). Show kids where the exclamation mark is.

## REMEMBER THE BIBLE VERSE

- Display the “Bible Verse Poster” (pack item 8) and leads kids to say the verse with you.
- Place the 10 cups with tissue paper on the floor in front of the kids.
- Ask a child to poke through the tissue paper on one cup with his finger and gently remove the verse word.
- Once all the words are removed from the cups, challenge kids to work together to put them in order.
- Say the verse together.
- Sing “Light of the World.”

## TODAY’S POINT AND PRAYER

- Direct the children to look at the “Focal Wall” (pack item 6).
- Invite a child to lift the flashlight add-on to show Today’s Point.

- Read the Point and lead the children to repeat it after you: “Jesus is God’s plan for forgiveness.”
- Invite the children to pray with you and thank God that Jesus is His plan for forgiveness. Say Today’s point aloud and guide children to repeat it after you.

## MUSIC AND MOTION

- Remind kindergartners that everyone needs to hear about Jesus.
- Ask children to tell at least one thing they can tell people about Jesus.
- Play “Bright In Me” again and encourage kids to do the motions with you.

## ACTIVITY BOOK AND MEMORY MAKER

- Turn to page 15 in the Activity Book. Complete the activity together.
- Give each child a Day 5 Memory Maker. Talk about the bubble with an exclamation point. Explain that an exclamation mark lets people know that something is really important! Say: “This picture can help us remember that we need to tell people about Jesus and how much He loves us.”
- Guide the preschoolers to add the Day 5 tags to their Memory Maker bags. Gather the Memory Makers as you prepare to transition to other activities.

# BIBLE—LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## GLOW BOWLING

**SUPPLIES:** “Review Questions” (pack 25), 10 empty 16.9 ounce plastic soda bottles, 10 glow sticks, glow ball (used on Day 1), painter’s tape **Extend:** brightly colored sticky notes, tape, permanent marker

- Make an X on the floor with painter’s tape where each of the bottles should go. Set up the 10 bottles in a bowling formation—4 bottles in back, then 3, then 2, then 1. Place an activated glow stick inside each bottle.
- Lead kids to line up one behind the other.
- Ask the person in the front of the line a review question from any of the five days of Bible stories. (Be sensitive to the fact that some children may not have attended every day. Ask those children Day 5 questions). Once the child answers correctly, she can roll the ball toward the bottles. (If a child struggles with the answer, encourage the group to help.)
- Offer three chances to knock down all the bottles. Once a child has knocked down all the bottles or used up all three turns, she should go to the back of the line.

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Write each word of the Bible verse on an individual sticky note. Attach a sticky note to each bottle. (Use tape to keep the sticky notes from falling off if needed.)
- Direct the group to help put the bottles in correct verse order in a bowling formation.
- Allow kids to take turns rolling the ball toward the pins. (One turn each.)
- Each time all the bottles are knocked down, challenge kids to say the Bible verse aloud.

## ★ KID CONNECTION

I know the Bible is true.

## RIGHT OR WRONG CHOICE?

**Supplies:** “Choice Cards” (pack item 11), *VBS 2026 Backpack* (9798384538172) or another bag, two paper plates, marker, painter’s tape, scissors

- Cut apart “Choice Cards” (pack item 11) and place them in a bag. Draw a happy face on one plate and a sad face on the other. Tape a line on the floor. Place plates on opposite sides of the tape.
- Lead kids to stand with their feet straddling the tape, one foot on the left and one foot on the right.
- Ask a child to pull a card from the backpack. Read the card to the group.
- Ask: “Is this a right choice or a wrong choice? If you think it is a right choice and would make someone happy, jump to the side of the tape with the happy face. If it’s a wrong choice and would make someone sad, jump to the side of the tape with the sad face.”
- Repeat with each card until both sides of each card has been read.
- Remind kids of Today’s Point: Jesus is God’s plan for forgiveness. Explain that even though we make wrong choices, God loves us. He sent Jesus so that we can be forgiven.

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Change up the game, this time asking would you rather questions. (Would you rather go to the beach or to school; eat a hot dog or a hamburger; eat chocolate or vanilla ice cream, etc.) Indicate which side kids should stand on for each choice.
- Help kids understand that sometimes people make choices that are not right or wrong. They are just choices. But when people make wrong choices, they need to ask forgiveness.

## ★ KID CONNECTION

I know that God sent Jesus so that I can be forgiven.

### RIGHT OR WRONG CHOICE SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

Place two chairs at the front of the line with the backs facing the kids. On the back of one chair, place a happy face on it. On the back of the other chair, place a sad face giving children an elevated visual as to which side is happy and which side is sad.



# BIBLE—LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## BONUS ACTIVITY

### Tell the Message

- Invite preschoolers to sit in a circle with you.
- Say: “Peter told people an important message about Jesus. A lot of those people decided to follow Jesus! We get to tell our friends an important message today too!”
- Whisper: “Follow Jesus” to the preschooler on your right.
- Instruct her to repeat what she heard to the person on her right.
- Continue the pattern until every preschooler has heard the message. The last preschooler to hear the message will repeat what he heard aloud to the group.
- Repeat this activity using the message, “Jesus loves you.”
- Say: “A lot of people decided to follow Jesus when they heard what Peter had to say. We can tell other people about Jesus too!”

## TRANSITION TO ROTATION ACTIVITIES

- Lead kids to line up for rotations. Place a leader at the front and back of the line for safety.
- Encourage kids to whisper the Bible verse as they walk through the hallway.
- Take a list of children’s names with you for emergency info and check at each rotation to account for each child.

## MAKE A BANNER

**Supplies:** large piece of paper, neon stickers, *VBS 2026 Theme Stickers* (9798384538158), highlighters, neon tape, scissors, crayons **Extend:** paper, rubber bands (1 per child)

- Tape the large piece of paper to a wall. Write *Jesus* in large letters in the middle of the paper.
- Read the name *Jesus*. Encourage kids to decorate around *Jesus’* name.
- Invite preschoolers to add stickers, tape pieces, drawings, and words.
- Comment that Peter and the other disciples told people about Jesus. They told that Jesus is alive and that Jesus is the Savior. People believed what the disciples said.

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Offer kindergartners paper to create individual banners. Lead them to write *Jesus’* name or sentences about Jesus.
- Suggest they use the other materials to decorate their banners.
- Help a child roll up his completed banner and close it with a rubber band. Tell the child he can give the banner to someone to tell them about Jesus.
- Say that Jesus is God’s plan for forgiveness.

## ★KID CONNECTION

I can think about what I know and can tell about Jesus.

## PLASTIC CUP DESIGNS

**SUPPLIES:** clear plastic translucent cups (1 per child), copy paper strips cut to fit inside the cup, washable markers, flashlights **Extend:** light box, additional paper strips

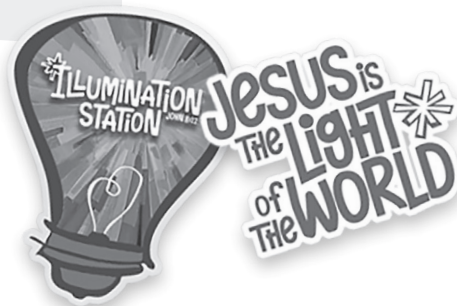
- Distribute a cup and paper strip to each child.
- Suggest that the children draw something from one of the Bible stories from the week. Encourage kids to use a variety of colors and fill in most of the empty space on the strip.
- Assist kids in lining the inside of the cup with the paper strip with the picture facing the outside of the cup.
- When the children have completed their cups, pass around a flashlight and let them shine the light inside the cup to illuminate the drawing.

## EXTEND THE ACTIVITY

- Provide additional paper strips. Suggest kids draw additional pictures and designs on the strips.
- Demonstrate how to remove one strip from a cup and replace it with another (or provide extra cups).
- Suggest that kids place their cups on the light box to show their designs.

## ★KID CONNECTION

I can tell people about Bible stories I have heard.



# CLOSING GROUP TIME

**SUPPLIES:** “Book: *I Know Jesus Loves Me*” (pack item 9), “Book: *Thank You God*” (pack item 17), “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21), “Review Questions” (pack item 25), “Spotlight Theater Picture 5” (pack item 36), flashlights, (1 per child), *VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers*

## SING TOGETHER

- Distribute a flashlight to each child.
- Play “Shine the Light.”
- Guide kids to listen and shine their flashlights as directed in the song, being careful not to shine the lights in eyes or faces.

## REVIEW THE BIBLE VERSE:

- Lead kids to stand in a circle. Say the Bible verse together as a group.
- Explain that the group will work to say the Bible verse together again, but in a different way. As the flashlight is passed around the circle, each child will say the next word in the verse.
- If a child struggles (or if the group has several first-time kids), ask the group to say each word together as the flashlight is passed.
- Keep repeating the words to the verse until the flashlight travels completely around the circle.
- If time allows, play “Light of the World” as the flashlight is passed from child to child.
- Periodically stop the music. Challenge the child holding the flashlight when the music stops to say the Bible verse aloud. If the child is unsure, ask the group to help by saying the verse together.

## REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY:

- Prepare the “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21) with the “Spotlight Theater Picture 5” (pack item 36) before showing the children.
- Say: “It’s time to shine a spotlight on our

theater to remind us of what our Bible story was about.”

- Place the theater in your lap so it is facing the children. Shine the flashlight from behind the theater to show the group the picture of Peter preaching to the crowd.
- Use the “Review Questions” (pack item 25) to review today’s story with the children.

## PRAY AND SING:

- Say: “Let’s sing today’s Bible story song!” Sing these lyrics to the tune “She’ll Be Coming Around the Mountain.”
  - Oh, Jesus is God’s plan for everyone
  - Oh, Jesus is God’s plan for everyone
  - Even though we make wrong choices
  - Jesus promised to forgive us
  - Oh, Jesus is God’s plan for everyone
- Show kids “Bible Story Pictures 1–5” to remind kids of the stories they heard.
- Pray and thank God for a wonderful week at VBS. Ask God to help kids remember what they’ve learned this week.

## CLOSING ACTIVITY:

- Read “Book: *I Know Jesus Loves Me*” (pack item 9). Mention a hidden firefly on each page.
- Choose a child to shine the flashlight on the item when she finds it.
- Continue reading the book, choosing different children to find the hidden firefly with the flashlight.
- As time allows, read the book, “Thank You, God.” Offer the flashlight to children to continue finding the hidden pictures.
- If children are still waiting to be picked up, use the flashlight to play “I Spy.” The leader can start the game by “spying” something. Kids can take turns using the flashlight to shine on items around the room as they guess.

## GROUP TIME PREP

Prepare the “Spotlight Theater” (pack item 21) with the “Spotlight Theater Picture 5” (pack item 36).

## TIPS FOR DISMISSAL

- Follow your church’s plan for dismissal.
- Place each child’s personal belongings and take-home items near the door.
- Position one leader at the door to greet parents while others continue group time and games with the children.
- Thank the parents for bringing their children to VBS. Be sure each child takes home all of her personal items, Memory Makers, and any artwork or projects from the week.



## REVIEW THE BIBLE VERSE SPECIAL NEEDS ADAPTATION

To help a child struggling with the answer, suggest that she shine the flashlight on the shoes of a friend who can help with the next word. Then they can say the word together.

# SUPPLIES

**Note:** In addition, consult the leader guide to ensure that you have prepared any pack or printable items needed for the activities listed.

## DAILY RESOURCES

Gather these supplies for use each day. These are not included in the lists for each activity.

- Bibles
- Music device
- Construction paper (all colors)
- Copy paper (various colors)
- Coloring utensils (crayons, markers, colored pencils)
- Crayons
- Glue or glue sticks
- Index cards
- Paint
- Paint containers
- Paintbrushes
- Painting smocks
- Pencils
- Permanent marker
- Scissors (child and adult)
- Tape (clear, painter's, and masking)
- VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers CD* (included in leader pack)
- VBS 2026 Tablecloths* (9798384538189) or other plastic tablecloths
- Washable markers

## TEACHING HELPS

These resources may be purchased by ordering online at [lifeway.com/vbs](http://lifeway.com/vbs), or by calling 1.800.458.2772.

- VBS 2026 Kindergarten Leader Guide* (9798384537465)—1 per teacher
- VBS 2026 Kindergarten Leader Pack* (9798384537472)—1 per room
- VBS 2026 Preschool Activity Book* (9798384537014)—1 per child
- VBS 2026 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack* (9798384537502)
- VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers CD* (pkg. of 5, 9798384537540)
- CSB® Read to Me Bible* (9781433648632)
- VBS 2026 Logo Stickers* (9798384538295)
- VBS 2026 Sticker Name Tags* (9798384538301)
- VBS 2026 Sticky Foam Shapes* (9798384538134)
- VBS 2026 Theme Stickers* (9798384538158)
- VBS 2026 Memory Maker* (5 sets, 9798384538141)



## DAY 1

### INTRO ACTIVITIES

#### Light Box: Spelling J-E-S-U-S

- Homemade light box
- Neon color see-through plastic cups
- Clipboards

#### Bible Story Projection Designs

- Transparency film, tape, or cling wrap
- Cardboard tubes
- Flashlights
- White poster board
- Large cardboard roll from inside clear packing tape
- Dry erase markers

### GROUP TIME

- Ball
- Flashlight

### BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

#### Play a Game

- Clothespins

#### Firefly Glow Bottle

- Cardstock
- Empty water bottles (1 per child)
- Colorful fuzzy chenille stems
- Glow sticks (1 per child)
- Optional:** Additional glow sticks

#### Make Lava Lamp Bottles

- Clear empty water bottles with lids (4)
- Vegetable oil
- Water
- Water droppers (4)
- Small funnel
- Neon water-based paint (4 colors)
- Effervescent tablets
- Pan to catch overflow
- Paper towels

#### Is It a Light Source?

- Daily items only

#### Bonus Activity: Decorate Names

- Daily items only

### CLOSING GROUP TIME

- Flashlight

## DAY 2

### INTRO ACTIVITIES

#### Light Box: Painting in a Bag

- Homemade light box
- Quart ziplock bags (4)
- Neon paint (4 colors)

#### Color Disappearing Experiment

- Snack-size ziplock bags
- Stain-less steel bowl with water
- Black permanent marker
- Large towel
- Hand towel

### GROUP TIME

- Penny
- Eye dropper
- Clear plastic container with water
- Towel
- Items to sink or float
- Flashlight

### BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

#### Scavenger Hunt

- Daily items only

#### Sensory Bottles and Light Box

- Water bottles
- Glittered pom-poms
- Water beads
- Baby oil
- Blue food color
- Water
- Strong magnet wands (2)
- Flashlights
- Magnetic items
- Glow sticks
- Lava lamp bottles from Day 1

#### Paint a Paper Towel

- Paper towels (1 per child)
- Water dropper
- Disposable muffin pans or egg cartons
- Water cups
- Table covering
- Extend:** Straws (1 per child), white cardstock frame, permanent marker or paint pen

#### Pass the Water Relay

- Large plastic cups (1 per child)
- Clear measuring cup
- Towel

#### Bonus Activity: Going to the River Game

- Daily items only

### CLOSING GROUP TIME

- Daily items only

## DAY 3

### INTRO ACTIVITIES

#### Light Box: Bible Verse Color Stack

- Homemade light box
- Transparent 3-ring binder dividers (5 different colors)
- Black permanent markers

#### Go Fishing

- Green cardstock
- Wooden dowel
- Large metal paper clips
- Strong magnet
- Duct tape
- String
- Blue plastic tablecloth

### GROUP TIME

- Paper plate

### BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

#### Light Source Matching Game

- Daily items only

#### Loaves and Fish Basket Toss

- Cardstock
- Beanbags (9)
- Large basket
- Extend:** Additional set of prepared beanbags and basket

#### Fish in a Basket

- Cardstock
- Straws
- Baskets

#### Stained Glass Art

- White craft paper
- Extend:** Acrylic sheets (such as cutting boards) or 3-ring binder dividers, hand wipes

#### Bonus Activity: Loaves and Fish Search

- Cardstock

### CLOSING GROUP TIME

- Poster board

## DAY 4

### INTRO ACTIVITIES

#### Light Box: Neon Rice Sensory Bin

- Neon colored rice
- Red and green construction paper
- Clear plastic bin

#### Create Shadows

- Large flashlight, spotlight, or overhead projector
- Optional:** Hand puppets

### GROUP TIME

- Tray
- Plastic cups (6)
- Small rock
- Sticky notes

### BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

#### Glow Ring Toss

- 2-liter drink bottles (3)
- Water
- Glow sticks
- Glow necklaces
- Brightly colored index cards

#### Create a Design with Neon Crayons

- Black cardstock (1 piece per child)
- Neon chalk
- Paint pen or white metallic permanent marker
- Extend:** Black construction paper (1 piece per child)

#### Make Emotion Faces

- Solid white paper plates

#### Play a Game

- Extend:** Index card-size rectangles made from construction paper in the same 5 colors as on the spinner, flashlight

#### Bonus Activity: What's Missing?

- Large tray or pan
- Small objects from around the room such as a marker, crayon, small Bible, glow stick, stack of sticky notes, and so forth
- Towel

### CLOSING GROUP TIME

- Flashlight

## DAY 5

### INTRO ACTIVITIES

#### Light Box: Straw Building with Play Dough

- Homemade light box
- Neon colored straws
- Neon colored play dough
- Glow sticks

#### Church Block Building

- Blocks

### GROUP TIME

- Cups (10)
- Brightly colored tissue
- Rubber bands (10)

### BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

#### Glow Bowling

- 16.9 plastic soda bottles (10)
- Glow sticks (10)
- Glow ball from Day 1
- Extend:** Brightly colored sticky notes

#### Right or Wrong Choice

- VBS 2026 Backpack* (9798384538172) or another bag
- Paper plates (2)

#### Make a Banner

- Large piece of paper
- Neon stickers
- Highlighters
- Neon tape
- Extend:** Rubber bands

#### Plastic Cup Designs

- Clear plastic translucent cups (1 per child)
- Flashlights
- Neon tape
- Extend:** Homemade light box

#### Bonus Activity: Tell the Message

- No supplies needed

### CLOSING GROUP TIME

- Flashlights (1 per child)

# ACTIVITY—BASED DECORATIONS

For added fun for your classroom, try these ideas. Kindergartners' imaginations and creativity will soar with just a few little additions to your teaching space.

## LIGHT UP A NEON SENSORY BIN

- Large storage tub
  - Neon aquarium gravel
  - Thick glow sticks
  - Glow-in-the-dark rocks
  - Glow-in-the-dark stars
  - White feathers
  - Small UV (black light) flashlights
- Gather a mixture of the items listed above or add other preferred neon, white, or glow-in-the-dark items.
  - Provide black light flashlights for kids to explore the glowing items.

Dim the lights to see a brighter glow. Be sure to follow all safety and security procedures.

## BUILD REFLECTING LIGHT TOWERS

- CDs
  - Large and small cardboard tubes
  - Assortment of plastic or paper cups
  - Basket
  - Flashlight
- Provide a basket of assorted CDs, cardboard tubes, and cups.
  - Encourage kindergartners to stack the supplies in different ways to make towers.
  - Observe all the colors on the CDs as light is reflected on them. For extra fun, give a leader a flashlight to shine on the CDs and see different color patterns.

## CREATE GLOW-IN-THE-DARK CLOUD DOUGH

- Baby lotion
  - Cornstarch
  - Glow-in-the-dark or fluorescent paint
  - Mixing bowl
  - Mixing spoon
  - Ziplock bags
  - Allergy Alert (see p. 7 to download)
- Put  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup of baby lotion into a mixing bowl. Add in a few drops of paint. Stir well.
  - Add  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup of cornstarch to the mixture. Stir ingredients together until it becomes difficult to stir. Knead dough until mixture becomes smooth.
  - Add baby lotion or cornstarch until desired consistency is reached.
  - Store cloud dough in ziplock bags.

## MAKE A BRIGHT LIGHT BOARD

- Peg boards (4)
  - Black spray paint
  - Zip ties
  - Neon golf tees
- Spray paint the peg boards black and let dry.
  - Stand boards up, forming a square.
  - Use the peg holes to zip tie ends together, every other peg hole or so.
  - Provide neon golf tees for preschoolers to place in the pegs making colorful designs, suggested letters, or simple objects related to the Bible story.



# LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Jesus said<sup>1</sup>  
I am the light of the world  
Light of the world<sup>2</sup>

Jesus said<sup>1</sup>  
I am the light of the world  
Light of the world<sup>2</sup>

**The light of the world<sup>3</sup>**  
**Jesus is<sup>4</sup>**  
**The light of the world<sup>3</sup>**  
**Jesus is<sup>4</sup>**  
**The light of the world<sup>3</sup>**  
**Light of the world<sup>3</sup>**

Jesus said<sup>1</sup>  
I am the light of the world  
Light of the world<sup>2</sup>

Jesus said<sup>1</sup>  
I am the light of the world  
Light of the world<sup>2</sup>

**The light of the world<sup>3</sup>**  
**Jesus is<sup>4</sup>**  
**The light of the world<sup>3</sup>**  
**Jesus is<sup>4</sup>**

**The light of the world<sup>3</sup>**  
**Jesus is<sup>4</sup>**  
**The light of the world<sup>3</sup>**  
**Jesus is<sup>4</sup>**  
**The light of the world<sup>3</sup>**

**Light of the world<sup>3</sup>**  
**Light of the world<sup>3</sup>**



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# WHO IS JESUS?

Who is Jesus?<sup>1</sup>  
I'll tell you<sup>2</sup> who He is<sup>3</sup>  
Who is Jesus?<sup>1</sup>  
I'll tell you<sup>2</sup> who He is<sup>3</sup>

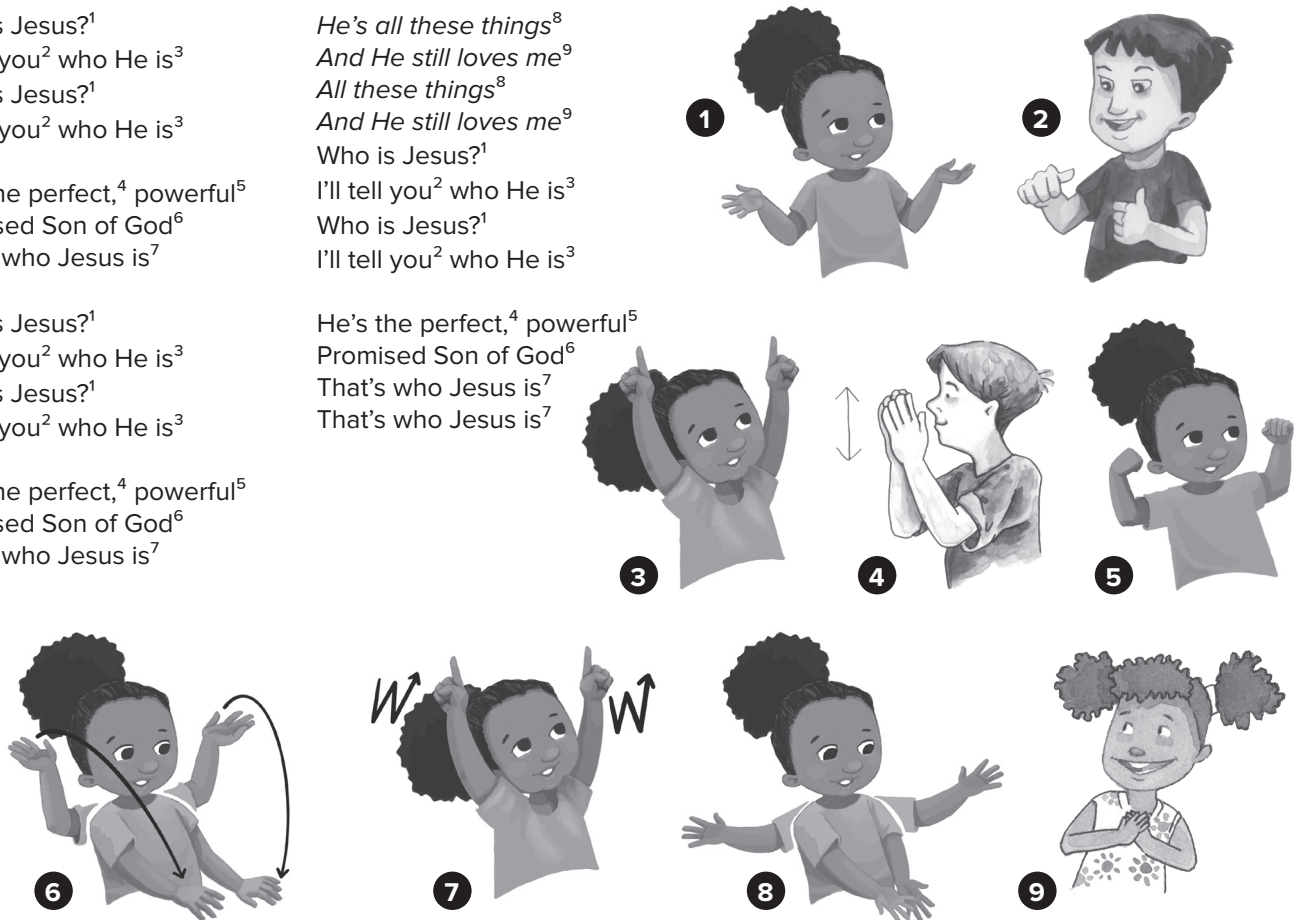
He's the perfect,<sup>4</sup> powerful<sup>5</sup>  
Promised Son of God<sup>6</sup>  
That's who Jesus is<sup>7</sup>

Who is Jesus?<sup>1</sup>  
I'll tell you<sup>2</sup> who He is<sup>3</sup>  
Who is Jesus?<sup>1</sup>  
I'll tell you<sup>2</sup> who He is<sup>3</sup>

He's the perfect,<sup>4</sup> powerful<sup>5</sup>  
Promised Son of God<sup>6</sup>  
That's who Jesus is<sup>7</sup>

*He's all these things<sup>8</sup>*  
*And He still loves me<sup>9</sup>*  
*All these things<sup>8</sup>*  
*And He still loves me<sup>9</sup>*  
Who is Jesus?<sup>1</sup>  
I'll tell you<sup>2</sup> who He is<sup>3</sup>  
Who is Jesus?<sup>1</sup>  
I'll tell you<sup>2</sup> who He is<sup>3</sup>

He's the perfect,<sup>4</sup> powerful<sup>5</sup>  
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# I CAN BE LIKE JESUS



Jesus obeyed<sup>1</sup>  
 Jesus is kind<sup>2</sup>  
 I can be<sup>3</sup> like Jesus<sup>4</sup>

God helps me do what I should do<sup>5</sup>  
 And live the way He wants me to<sup>6</sup>

Jesus obeyed<sup>1</sup>  
 Jesus is kind<sup>2</sup>  
 I can be<sup>3</sup> like Jesus<sup>4</sup>

Jesus obeyed<sup>1</sup>  
 Jesus is kind<sup>2</sup>  
 I can be<sup>3</sup> like Jesus<sup>4</sup>  
 Jesus obeyed<sup>1</sup>  
 Jesus is kind<sup>2</sup>  
 I can be<sup>3</sup> like Jesus<sup>4</sup>

God helps me do what I should do<sup>5</sup>  
 And live the way He wants me to<sup>6</sup>

Jesus obeyed<sup>1</sup>  
 Jesus is kind<sup>2</sup>  
 I can be<sup>3</sup> like Jesus<sup>4</sup>

I can be<sup>3</sup> like Jesus<sup>4</sup>

# THINGS NO ONE ELSE CAN DO



Jesus can do things<sup>1</sup>  
That no one else can do<sup>2</sup>  
He did miracles<sup>3</sup>  
To show me and you<sup>4</sup>  
That He's the Son of God<sup>5</sup>  
This I know is true<sup>6</sup>  
Jesus can do things<sup>1</sup>  
That no one else can do<sup>2</sup>

Open up the Bible,<sup>7</sup> you will see<sup>8</sup>  
All the things He did<sup>3</sup> were amazing<sup>3</sup>  
He fed four thousand<sup>9</sup> with a few little fish<sup>10</sup>  
And seven loaves of bread<sup>11</sup>  
That's what Jesus did!<sup>3</sup>

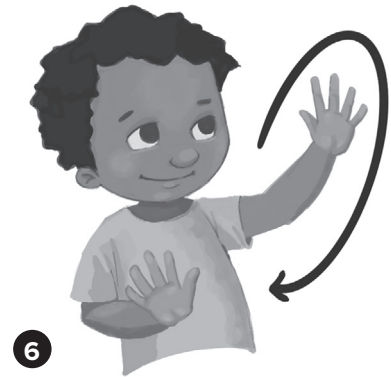
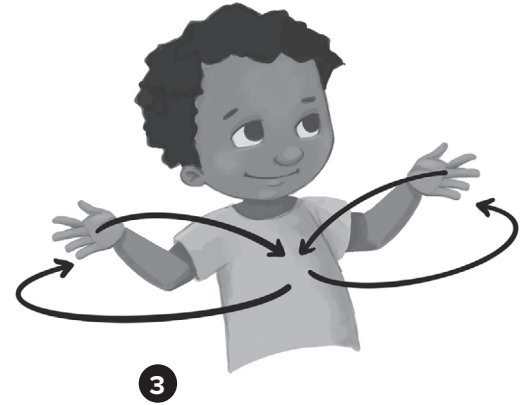
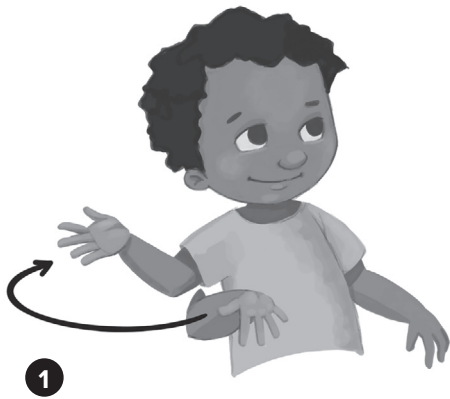
Jesus can do things<sup>1</sup>  
That no one else can do<sup>2</sup>  
He did miracles<sup>3</sup>  
To show me and you<sup>4</sup>  
That He's the Son of God<sup>5</sup>  
This I know is true<sup>6</sup>  
Jesus can do things<sup>1</sup>  
That no one else can do<sup>2</sup>

## REPEAT CHORUS

Jesus can do things<sup>1</sup>  
That no one else can do<sup>2</sup>  
He did miracles<sup>3</sup>  
To show me and you<sup>4</sup>  
That He's the Son of God<sup>5</sup>  
This I know is true<sup>6</sup>  
Jesus can do things<sup>1</sup>  
That no one else can do<sup>2</sup>



# BRIGHT IN ME



I want to tell people<sup>1</sup>  
 All about Jesus<sup>2</sup>  
 All about what He has done<sup>3</sup> for me<sup>4</sup>  
 I want to tell people<sup>1</sup>  
 All about Jesus<sup>2</sup>  
 Oh how I want them<sup>3</sup> to see<sup>4</sup>

**Jesus<sup>5</sup>**  
**Light of the world<sup>6</sup>**  
**He is all<sup>7</sup> I need<sup>4</sup>**  
**Jesus<sup>5</sup>**  
**I want His light to shine<sup>7</sup> bright in me<sup>4</sup>**

I want to tell people<sup>1</sup>  
 All about Jesus<sup>2</sup>  
 All about what He has done<sup>3</sup> for me<sup>4</sup>  
 I want to tell people<sup>1</sup>  
 All about Jesus<sup>2</sup>  
 Oh how I want them<sup>3</sup> to see<sup>4</sup>



**REPEAT CHORUS (2X)**

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# SHINE THE LIGHT



Shine the light  
 Shine the light<sup>1</sup>  
 Let the love of Jesus<sup>2</sup> shine so bright<sup>3</sup>  
 Shine the light  
 Shine the light<sup>1</sup>  
 Let the love of Jesus<sup>2</sup> shine so bright<sup>3</sup>

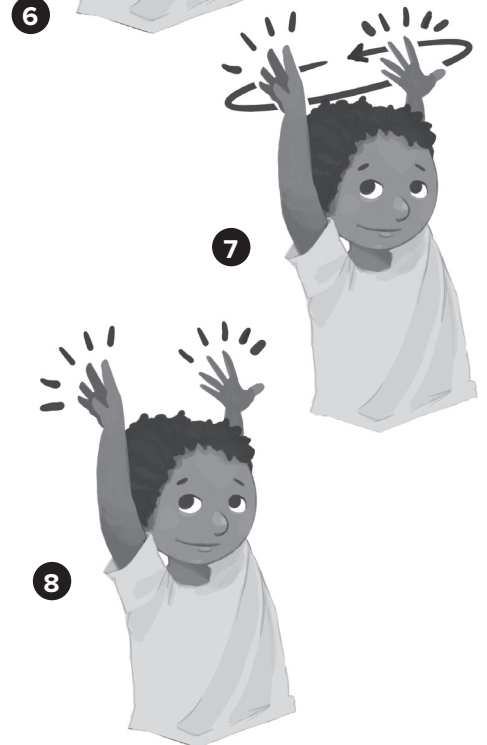
**Shine it to the left**  
**Shine it to the right<sup>4</sup>**  
**Shine it to the left**  
**Shine it to the right<sup>4</sup>**

**Shine it straight up**  
**Shine it straight down<sup>5</sup>**  
**Shine it back and forth<sup>6</sup>**  
**Shine it all around<sup>7</sup>**

Shine the light  
 Shine the light<sup>1</sup>  
 Let the love of Jesus<sup>2</sup> shine so bright<sup>3</sup>  
 Shine the light  
 Shine the light<sup>1</sup>  
 Let the love of Jesus<sup>2</sup> shine so bright<sup>3</sup>

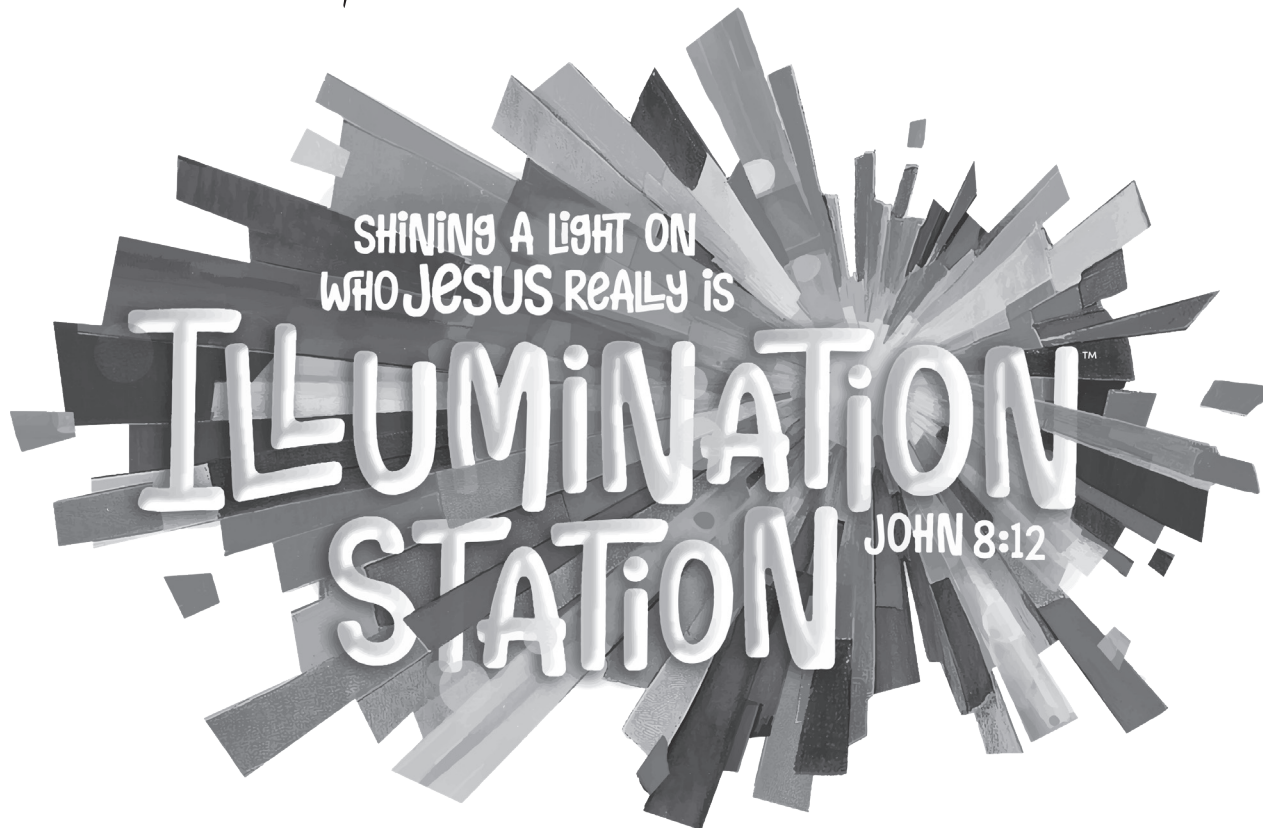
## REPEAT CHORUS

Shine the light  
 Shine the light<sup>1</sup>  
 Let the love of Jesus<sup>2</sup> shine so bright<sup>3</sup>  
 Shine the light  
 Shine the light<sup>1</sup>  
 Let the love of Jesus<sup>2</sup> shine so bright<sup>3</sup>  
 Shine the light<sup>8</sup>



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# 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 (REPEAT)*

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

## REPEAT CHORUS

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