

VBS LIVE

2026



Dates: June 14 - 18



JESUS is
THE LIGHT
of THE WORLD

Jesus spoke to them again:
"I am the light of the world.
Anyone who follows me will
never walk in the darkness but
will have the light of life."

John 8:12





What is Illumination Station?

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.

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.

No matter your role with this year's VBS, you are making a difference in the lives of children. From snacks, games, crafts, large & small group times, as well as early preparations – it ALL matters.

Our goal is to connect kids into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, and to have fun. You are doing that by being part of VBS & VBX! THANK YOU!

Bible Story Content

DAY 1 - Bible Story: Jesus asked who people thought He was

Scripture Reference • Matthew 16:13-20

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

DAY 2 - Bible Story: The Baptism of Jesus

Scripture Reference • Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11; John 1:29-34

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

DAY 3 - Bible Story: Jesus Performed Miracles

Scripture Reference • Matthew 15:29-39

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

DAY 4 - Bible Story: Jesus Died and Rose to Life

Scripture Reference • Mark 14:43-16:7

Today's Point: Jesus is the proven Son of God

DAY 5 - Bible Story: Peter preached about Jesus

Scripture Reference • Acts 2

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

Reasons To

VOLUNTEER

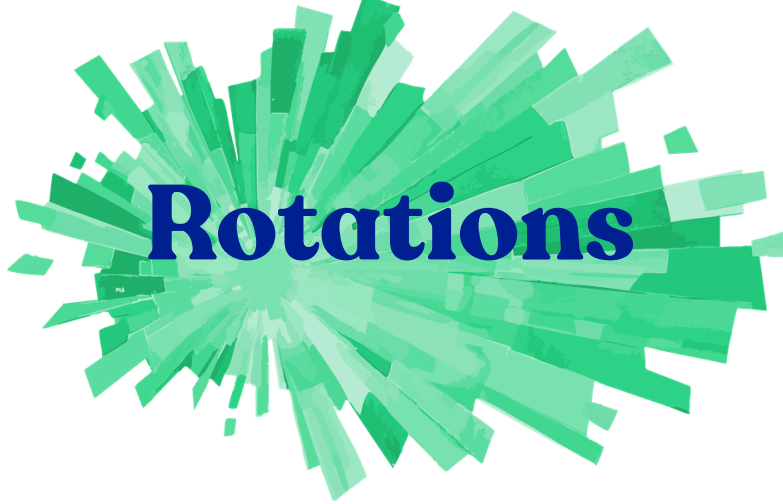
- I**ntroduce children to Jesus
- L**et God's light shine through you
- L**ift up young hearts in faith
- U**nite with others in joyful service
- M**ake an eternal impact
- I**nvite children to accept Jesus
- N**urture faith in a fun, engaging way
- A**waken a love for God's word
- T**ransform lives (including our own!)
- E**xperience the joy of serving the Lord

Rotations & Locations

<u>ROTATIONS</u>	5:55 – 6:15	6:15 - 6:35	6:40 - 7:00	7:00 - 7:20	7:25 - 7:45
MISSIONS	4th/5th	2nd/3rd	Break	Break	K/1st
CRAFT	Break	4th/5th	Break	K/1st	2nd/3rd
REC	2nd/3rd	Break	K/1st	Break	4th/5th
DINNER	Break	K/1st	2nd/3rd	4th/5th	Break
STORY	K/1st	Break	4th/5th	2nd/3rd	Break

LARGE	5:30-5:50
MOVE	5:50-5:55
ROTATION 1	5:55-6:15
ROTATION 2	6:15-6:35
MOVE	6:35-6:40
ROTATION 3	6:40-7:00
ROTATION 4	7:00-7:20
MOVE	7:20-7:25
ROTATION 5	7:25-7:45
MOVE	7:45-7:50
LARGE	7:50-8:00
DISMISS	8:00

	<u>LOCATIONS</u>
LARGE GROUP	Sanctuary
CRAFTS	Children's Bldg. 1st room
MISSIONS	Choir Room
STORY	Children's Bldg. 2nd room
REC	Outside or Gym
DINNER	Gym
VBX	Youth Room



Rotations

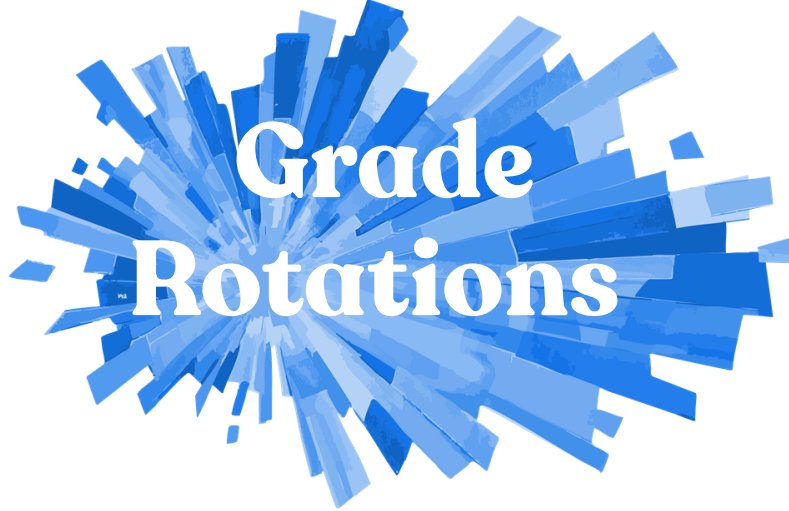
<u>ROTATIONS</u>	5:55 – 6:15	6:15 - 6:35	6:40 - 7:00	7:00 - 7:20	7:25 - 7:45
CRAFT	Break	4th/5th	Break	K/1st	2nd/3rd

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REC	2nd/3rd	Break	K/1st	Break	4th/5th

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DINNER	Break	K/1st	2nd/3rd	4th/5th	Break

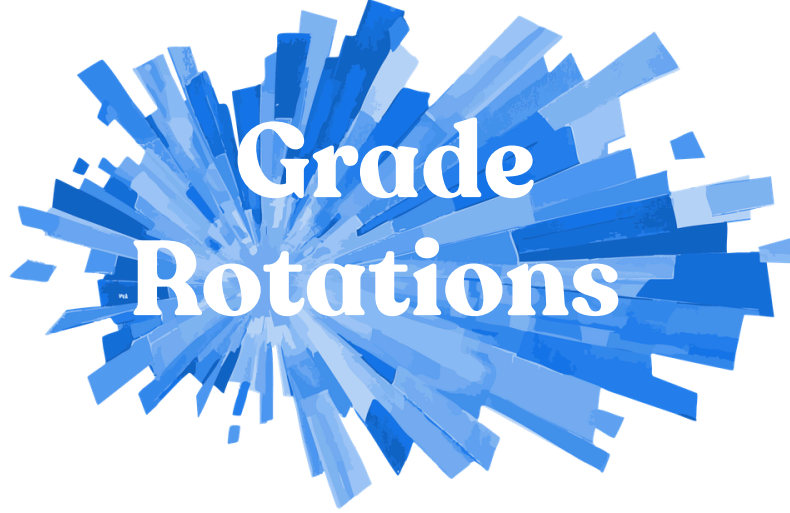


K & 1st Grade Schedule

5:30-5:50	Large Group
5:50-5:55	move
5:55-6:15	STORY
6:15-6:35	DINNER
6:35-6:40	move
6:40-7:00	REC
7:00-7:20	CRAFTS
7:20-7:25	move
7:25-7:45	MISSIONS
7:45-7:50	move
7:50-8:00	Large Group
8:00	DISMISS

2nd & 3rd Grade Schedule

5:30-5:50	Large Group
5:50-5:55	move
5:55-6:15	REC
6:15-6:35	MISSIONS
6:35-6:40	move
6:40-7:00	DINNER
7:00-7:20	STORY
7:20-7:25	move
7:25-7:45	CRAFTS
7:45-7:50	move
7:50-8:00	Large Group
8:00	DISMISS



4th & 5th Grade Schedule

5:30-5:50	Large Group
5:50-5:55	move
5:55-6:15	MISSIONS
6:15-6:35	CRAFTS
6:35-6:40	move
6:40-7:00	STORY
7:00-7:20	DINNER
7:20-7:25	move
7:25-7:45	REC
7:45-7:50	move
7:50-8:00	Large Group
8:00	DISMISS

VBX 6th Grade Schedule

5:30-5:50	Large Group
5:55-7:45	VBX Activities
7:50-8:00	Large Group
8:00	DISMISS



Registration

Carol Brown
Michaela Waits

4th & 5th Grade

Caitlin Duck
Chelsea Cutlip
Madison Todd

Dinner

Pam & Brad Cutlip
Kim & Tim Nutt
Dianne Grigsby

Decorating

Sherrí Ballance
Claudette Wright

Put Back Team

Libby Gleason
Anna Lewis
Robby Lewis

Grade K & 1st

Aubrie Guin
Cara Waits
Bailey Jennings

Story

Paula Martin
Melissa Permenter

Missions

Carol Brown
Jill Tabor

Sound / Computer

Jim Martin
Stacy Bridges
Wayne Bridges

Pictures

Kim Nutt

2nd & 3rd Grade

Lilly Robles
Shannon Davidson
Stephanie Perry

Crafts

Casey Maxwell
Katey Pearce
Laura Hamilton
Ella Maxwell

Rec

Vickie Elliott
Steven Smith
Eli Cook
Cannon Pearce

VBX

Tyler Nutt
Michaela Waits
Angie Moore
Trevor Cook

Mascot

Jackson Smith



Dress Up Days

Sunday

14th

VBS SHIRT

Monday

15th

WEAR YOUR FAVORITE SUNGLASSES

Tuesday

16th

WEAR NEON AND BRIGHT COLORS

Wednesday

17th

WACKY WEDNESDAY

Wear crazy clothes, socks & hair

Thursday

18th

**WEAR GLOW IN THE DARK
OR YOUR TIE-DYE SHIRT**

You can wear or add to
what you will wear for each day.

All Children and Leaders are encouraged to
participate in Dress Up Days!



Clean Up

Thursday night clean up is all hands on deck. Please bring all of the supplies from your area to the VBS storage room. Once you have picked up and cleaned up the area you have been serving in, please find another area to help, if they are still working.

Dress Code

For Adult & Youth Volunteers – VBS T -SHIRT

Understanding that we are representing Christ in this missions effort.

We want what we wear, to represent that.

When your hands are by your sides, shorts must come below your fingertips. Basketball length shorts, jeans, or capris are acceptable.


Shirts must have sleeves and cover mid section.

Our Words

VBS might be the best week of a kids summer. Between all the cool new songs, engaging Bible Stories, missions and crafts, VBS is sure to be a highlight for everyone! This week will be packed with conversation, quality time and fun. Focus on building relationships with them, getting to know them. We want this time to be about the kids learning all about Jesus, and not about our time with other adults. Be sure that we all spend more time talking and hanging out with the kids! And when we do speak with other adults, be sure that our conversations are minimal and focused on what we are being called to do at VBS.



SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH KIDS



The word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



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)



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)



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)



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)




WE RESPOND. We can respond to Jesus. The ABCs of Becoming a Christian is a simple tool that helps us remember how to respond when prompted by the Holy Spirit to receive the gift Jesus offers.

ADMIT to God that you are a sinner. The first people God created chose to sin and disobey God. Ever since then, all people have chosen to sin and disobey. (Romans 3:23) Tell God you messed up and you are sorry for doing your own thing, and turning away from Him through your thoughts, words, and actions. Repent, turn away from your sin. (Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9) Repent doesn’t just mean turning from doing bad things to doing good things. It means turning from sin and even from your own good works, and turning to Jesus, trusting only in Him to save you.

BELIEVE that Jesus is God’s Son and receive God’s gift of forgiveness from sin. You must believe that only Jesus can save you, and you cannot save yourself from your sin problem—not even by going to church or reading your Bible. Your faith or your trust is only in Jesus and what He did for you through His life, death, and resurrection. (Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-9)

CONFESS your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Tell God and tell others what you believe. If Jesus is your Savior, you are trusting only in Him to save you. Jesus is also Lord, which means He is in charge. You can start following Him and doing what He says in the Bible. You are born again into a new life and look forward to being with God forever. (Romans 10:9-10,13)



If you sense that children are under conviction from the Holy Spirit and would like to respond to the good news, spend some time counseling and praying with them individually. If you sense that a child is not ready to pray and respond in faith and repentance, continue to prayerfully teach him about Christ during the week.



DAY 1: JESUS IS GOD'S PROMISED SON

Spotlight Question

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is the Messiah, the promised Son of God.

Bible Verse

Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. *John 8:12 (KJV)*

Today's Point

Jesus is God's promised Son.

Bible Story

Jesus Asked Who People Thought He Was
(Matthew 16:13-20)



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 a moment now to stop and pray, asking God to use you to make an eternal impact on the lives of the children you teach. Continue to do so again each day of VBS.

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:

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

1. Who do people say that the Son of Man is?
2. 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. (See Matthew 16; 26.) 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.

BONUS VERSE

You are the Messiah, the
Son of the living God.
Matthew 16:16

Thou art the Christ, the
Son of the living God.
Matthew 16:16 (KJV)

LEADER PACK ITEMS USED TODAY:

1, 6–9, 15–17

NOTES

DAY 2: 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.

Bible Verse

Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. *John 8:12 (KJV)*

Today's Point

Jesus is God's perfect Son.

Bible Story

The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11; John 1:29-34)

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 children hear today's Bible story and reflect on Jesus' baptism, help them understand that baptism does not save them but is an important and meaningful act of obedience that follows their decision to ask for forgiveness of their sins and place their trust in Jesus.

BONUS VERSE

A voice came from heaven:
"You are my beloved Son;
with you I am well-pleased."
Mark 1:11

There came a voice from
heaven, saying, Thou art my
beloved Son, in whom I am
well pleased. *Mark 1:11 (KJV)*

**LEADER PACK ITEMS
USED TODAY:
2, 6–8, 10, 18–21**

NOTES _____

DAY 3: 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.

Bible Verse

Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. *John 8:12 (KJV)*

Today's Point

Jesus is the powerful Son of God.

Bible Story

Jesus Performed Miracles (Matthew 15:29-39)



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.

Notes

BONUS VERSE

Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth." *Matthew 28:18*

Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. *Matthew 28:18 (KJV)*

LEADER PACK ITEMS

USED TODAY:

3, 6–8, 11, 22



DAY 4: JESUS IS THE PROVEN SON OF GOD

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.

Bible Verse

Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. *John 8:12 (KJV)*

Today's Point

Jesus is the proven Son of God.

Bible Story

Jesus Died and Rose to Life
(Mark 14:43–16:7)



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.¹ As a result, church membership in America has dropped below 50 percent.² 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 truth³ and 61% "either believe Jesus Christ sinned or may have sinned while He was on earth."⁴ 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.

Notes

BONUS VERSE

When the centurion ... saw the way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" *Mark 15:39*

When the centurion ... saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God. *Mark 15:39 (KJV)*

LEADER PACK ITEMS USED TODAY:

4, 6–8, 12, 14, 23–25

FOOTNOTES

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.



DAY 5: 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.

Bible Verse

Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. *John 8:12 (KJV)*

Today's Point

Jesus is God's plan for forgiveness.

Bible Story

Peter Preached About Jesus (Acts 2)



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 drawing children in your care to salvation this week. God gives us the privilege and honor of being in relationship with the children He is calling to salvation.

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 understand their need for Jesus and give them the courage to step out in faith to receive the forgiveness Jesus offers to each of them.

Notes

BONUS VERSE

Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. *Acts 2:38*

Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. *Acts 2:38 (KJV)*

LEADER PACK ITEMS USED TODAY:

1-8, 13-14, 26-27

