



UPWARD BOUND

Grades 4k–6 Teacher Guide

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“For God... has shown
in our hearts to
give the light of the
knowledge of the
glory of God in the
face of Jesus
Christ.”

II Corinthians 4:6

UPWARD BOUND OVERVIEW






Meet Upward Bound's Hiking Crew

-  **Trail Guide**
VBS Director
-  **Guide**
Classroom Teacher
-  **Assistant Guide**
Classroom Teacher Assistant

Welcome to the Trek!

What to Expect from Upward Bound





Children love Upward Bound; adults love its impact! By God's grace, here's what it will do in the lives of your children to lead them to love and worship Jesus Christ:

-  deepen their knowledge of and love for the Word of God
-  increase their enthusiasm for memorizing Scripture
-  teach them the Gospel and equip them to share it

Overall Focus and Bible Lesson Summary

Written with a passionate desire for children to see Jesus as He truly is—to know, love, and trust Him as they never have before, Upward Bound focuses on Christ's astonishing incarnate journey to win our salvation.

Tracking Jesus' perilous footsteps from the Courts of Heaven to the cross and back again to the Summit, your VBS "Backpackers" will learn from the gospel of Luke that

-  for Jesus, being Upward Bound meant fully doing His Father's will, every step of the way
-  all people are born with an Earthly Bound attitude and need to repent and be saved by grace
-  having an Upward Bound attitude requires moment-to-moment reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit
-  because Jesus undertook this journey for them, they, too, can reach the Summit through faith in Him

Format

Upward Bound's unique format frees you as **Guide** (classroom teacher) to *focus on knowing your students!*

Guides *do not* teach the Bible lesson, lead recreation, give the Gospel presentation, etc., enabling you to concentrate on discipling the children under your direct care.

Typical Day

Setting Up Camp—Each day, Upward Bound begins with a rousing opening assembly of all Backpackers and Staff that includes singing, the missions focus, **Trail Instructions** (daily announcements), and **Crossover to Life** (Gospel presentation)—all with a skit woven through to add humor, fun, and truth.

Trail Blazing—Backpackers then head by Expeditions to their **Outposts** (classrooms) to meet in small groups with their **Guides** and **Assistant Guides** for activities focused around God's Word.

On the Trail—From that point, varied schedules have the Backpackers going to the Bible lesson, out for recreation, crafts, and snacks, and back to the Outpost for lesson application worksheets and memory work.

Breaking Camp—Each day concludes with a second all-group assembly filled with singing, a review of the day's Bible focus, and prayer—again with the day's skit woven throughout.

Our Prayer for You

As you get set for this epic expedition, we at Reachout are upholding you, in our prayers, eagerly anticipating what God will do in you and Backpackers. May we all be astonished at the majesty of Jesus!

“We must not cease

*to wonder at the great marvels of our God....Our incarnate God is to be worshipped as ‘The Wonderful.’
...It is a miracle of grace indeed, that Jesus should forsake the thrones and royalties above, to suffer ignominiously below for you. Let your soul lose itself in wonder....Who can be astonished at anything, when he has once been astonished at the manger and the cross?
What is there wonderful left after one has seen the Saviour?”*

C.H. Spurgeon
Morning and Evening

FOLLOW CHRIST TO THE SUMMIT!

BIBLICAL TRUTHS AT A GLANCE

| Day | Bible Lesson | | Daily Bible Reading |
|-------|--|--|----------------------|
| Day 1 | <p>The Surprising Journey — <i>Born in the Likeness of Men</i> <i>Luke 1:26–28; 2:1–40</i></p> <p>Character: <i>Gabriel the Angel</i></p> <p>Alternate Character: <i>Zechariah or Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist</i></p> | <p>Main Theme: In the most wonderful and surprising journey ever taken, God the Son purposed with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit to leave the glories of Heaven to become a little baby in this broken world to rescue sinful people.</p> | Philippians 2:5–8 |
| Day 2 | <p>The Humbling Journey — <i>The Form of a Servant</i> <i>Luke 2:41–50</i></p> <p>Character: <i>Mary, the mother of Jesus</i></p> <p>Alternate Character: <i>Joseph, Jesus' earthly father</i></p> | <p>Main Theme: Jesus had one driving purpose in his life: to do the will of his Heavenly Father. He humbly lived every moment of every day loving and learning to obey God his Father, and loving and serving the people around Him, even as a child!</p> | Luke 2:51–52 |
| Day 3 | <p>The Obedient Journey — <i>Humbled Himself by Being Obedient</i> <i>Luke 3:21–23; 4:1–15</i></p> <p>Character: <i>Gilead the Gecko, “Gill”</i></p> <p>Alternate Character: <i>(none)</i></p> | <p>Main Theme: In all Jesus did, God the Father was fully pleased with Him. Jesus never, ever sinned or gave in to Satan's temptations. Because of his settled purpose to do the will of the Father, his having fed on the Word of God throughout his life, and his complete dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was able to be fully obedient.</p> | Luke 3:21–23a, 4:1–2 |
| Day 4 | <p>The Painful Journey — <i>Obedient to Death on a Cross</i> <i>Luke 22:47–Luke 23</i></p> <p>Character: <i>Simon of Cyrene</i></p> <p>Alternate Character: <i>Alexandra, the wife of Simon of Cyrene</i></p> | <p>Main Theme: Jesus' complete obedience to the Father and selfless love for us led him to the Cross where he took our sins on Himself and died the painful death we deserved.</p> | Luke 23:13–16, 21 |
| Day 5 | <p>The Joy of the Journeyy — <i>God Has Highly Exalted Him</i> <i>Luke 24:1–12; 50–53</i></p> <p>Character: <i>Mary Magdalene</i></p> <p>Alternate Character: <i>Peter the apostle</i></p> | <p>Main Theme: Jesus rose from the dead, conquering it forever, and returned to Heaven as the victorious God-man, where He reigns as King and Lord of all with the “name that is above every name” (Phil. 2:9).</p> | Philippians 2:9–11 |

Upward Bound Trail Talk

Learning Upward Bound's lingo is a key part of your preparation for VBS. Using backpacking jargon will contribute significantly in creating an atmosphere of fun and adventure for your Backpackers! Familiarize yourself with these terms, using them now as you plan for Upward Bound and, most importantly, during VBS itself.

On the Trail

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Assistant Guide..... | <i>Classroom Teacher Assistant</i> |
| Backpackers..... | <i>Children</i> |
| Base Camp..... | <i>Assembly Room</i> |
| Bible Exploration | <i>Daily Bible Reading</i> |
| Breaking Camp..... | <i>Closing Daily Assembly</i> |
| Crossover to Life..... | <i>Gospel Presentation</i> |
| Expeditions | <i>Grade Groups</i> |
| | <i>Expedition A—Grades 5 & 6</i> |
| | <i>Expedition B—Grades 3 & 4</i> |
| | <i>Expedition C—Grades 1 & 2</i> |
| | <i>Expedition D—4's–K</i> |
| | <i>Expedition E—2's & 3's</i> |
| Guide..... | <i>Classroom Teacher</i> |
| Lead Guide..... | <i>Jesus</i> |
| Outpost..... | <i>Classroom</i> |
| Setting Up Camp | <i>Opening Daily Assembly</i> |
| Summit Celebration..... | <i>Closing Program</i> |
| Trail Discoveries..... | <i>Bible Lesson Worksheet</i> |
| Trail Guide..... | <i>VBS Director</i> |
| Trail Instructions..... | <i>Announcements</i> |
| Trail Log | <i>Student Book</i> |
| Song Guide..... | <i>Song Leader</i> |
| Trail Treats | <i>Snacks</i> |

TEACHING GRADES 4k-6

Expeditions A, B, C and D



LOOK ONLINE
for additional resources
(music, artwork, and
publicity information) are
available on the Upward
Bound portal. Talk to
your Director for more
information or visit: **portal.
reachoutadventures.com**

Gearing Up—*Getting ready for Upward Bound*

- ✿ study the trail
- ✿ attend training meetings
- ✿ decorate Outpost
- ✿ prepare your heart

On the Trail—*Leading your Backpackers through Upward Bound*

- ✿ guide and disciple Backpackers through daily activities

The Trek Beyond—*Life after Upward Bound*

- ✿ lay groundwork for follow-up
- ✿ contact Backpackers and parents

| What | When | What's Happening |
|-----------------|----------------|---|
| Registration | Pre-start | Registration; greeting arriving children and parents; staff prayer time |
| Setting up Camp | 30 minutes | Opening whole-group assembly |
| On the Trail | middle 2 hours | Individual schedules for each Expedition |
| Breaking Camp | 30 minutes | Closing whole-group assembly |

Guide Responsibilities

*You **are** responsible to:*

- lead your Backpackers through the day's schedule
- sit with your Expedition during opening and closing all-group assemblies and Bible lessons
- oversee worksheet completion
- promote Upward Bound's tone and theme, reinforce Bible lesson truths

You're not responsible to:

- teach the Bible lessons
- give the Gospel presentation
- lead recreation or crafts
- direct singing
- serve snacks
- conduct assemblies

What Upward Bound is All About

— A Letter to the Backpackers, Trail Log

Backpacker, the most fantastic adventure of your life is about to begin! The greatest Explorer in the whole world has come to take you on an amazing spiritual journey. It's true! Our Lead Guide Jesus Christ, God Himself, is here at Upward Bound. He wants you to follow Him to the true Summit of the world—Heaven itself! Here's how to get started.

Using the Bible as your Guidebook, and your Trail Log (this book!), you and your teammates will trek along the exciting Upward Bound trail. You'll receive backpacking equipment stickers to outfit the backpacker at the center of this book as you:

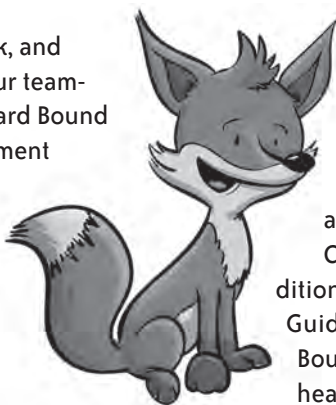
- memorize verses from the Bible (Gospel Presentation)
- complete worksheets (Trail Log)

- do things to help and love others
- read your Bible (Bible Explo)

Trail Treats (snacks) & Trail Break (recreation) will keep you in top shape.

Most important of all, you'll get to know our Lead Guide, the One True Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He loves you so much that He left the Courts of Heaven to journey on earth as a man. His journey took Him to the cross where He died so that you could be saved from your sins and begin your Upward Bound journey to the Summit and be with Him forever.

Come follow Jesus on the most epic expedition of all time! Keep your eyes on our Lead Guide and your feet in His footsteps. Upward Bound Backpackers, we're heading out!



Gearing Up

Getting Ready for Upward Bound

Study the Trail

Knowing Upward Bound well—catching its vision and understanding its theme, format, and curriculum content—is directly proportional to your ability to guide your Backpackers and *enjoy* your role. The above letter to the Backpackers will help you get off to a good start!

Format

Upward Bound is typically a five-day, three-hour-a-day VBS for 4 year olds through Grade 6 completed (plus a class for 2 & 3 year olds of VBS staff, if desired). Ideally the week concludes with the *Summit Celebration*, a final closing program for family and friends.

Backpacker Assignments

Grade Level Expeditions

Backpackers are divided into Expeditions as follows:

Grades 5 & 6 completed Expedition A





Tips for Simplifying

The use of PowerPoms is optional, especially for Expedition D. Follow these suggestions to keep your 4's–K in the contest, but reduce Teacher responsibilities:

- award stickers for completed work
- drop the use of PowerPoms
- have Record Keeper award 1,000 points daily per Backpacker to their respective teams for attendance only



| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Grades 3 & 4 completed | Expedition B |
| Grades 1 & 2 completed | Expedition C |
| 4's–K completed | Expedition D |
| 2's & 3's | Expedition E |

Backpacker Gear

Each Backpacker needs to bring the following “gear” to Upward Bound every day:

Bible

Backpackers are asked to bring Bibles each day to:

- complete Bible lesson worksheets
- foster daily reading of the Word
- familiarize them with their Bibles

Trail Log (student book)

The Upward Bound Trail Log is:

- a key element of the Backpackers' day throughout the week and quickly becomes a prized possession
- used continually for activities on-site and at home
- taken home each day
- Trail Blazing (worksheets)

A parent letter on the inside cover explains how they can help their children throughout the VBS week.

Biblical Content

Upward Bound's deep biblical content is the heart and unifying thread of this VBS. Every component of the program centers around the Bible lesson truths to draw the children into a deeper relationship with God through a fuller understanding of them.

Bible lessons

Upward Bound's exciting Bible lessons

- set the pace for an adventure-filled week exploring God's Word
- show who Jesus really is, why He came, what He did, and how that changes everything
- reveal God's love and grace in His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ

“Eyewitness” Storytellers bring Christ's journey to life through their unique perspectives as

- **Gabriel, the angel:** The Surprising Journey (*the Incarnation*)
- **Mary, Jesus' mother:** The Humbling Journey (*Jesus' sinless childhood of always doing the Father's will*)

- **Giliad, the desert gecko:** The Obedient Journey (*the Temptation*)
- **Simon of Cyrene:** The Painful Journey (*the Cross*)
- **Mary Magdalene:** The Joy of the Journey (*the Resurrection and return to Heaven*)

By trail's end, each Backpacker is encouraged to make his or her own life-long, upward-bound journey through faith in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

✿ **Crossover to Life (Gospel presentation) Bible Memory**

Upward Bound's original Gospel presentation, Crossover to Life, complements the backpacking adventure theme. Its purpose is two-fold:

- to teach the children the plan of salvation so that they understand it for themselves and by God's grace respond to it
- to help the children learn a succinct way to explain the Gospel to others

Crossover to Life is:

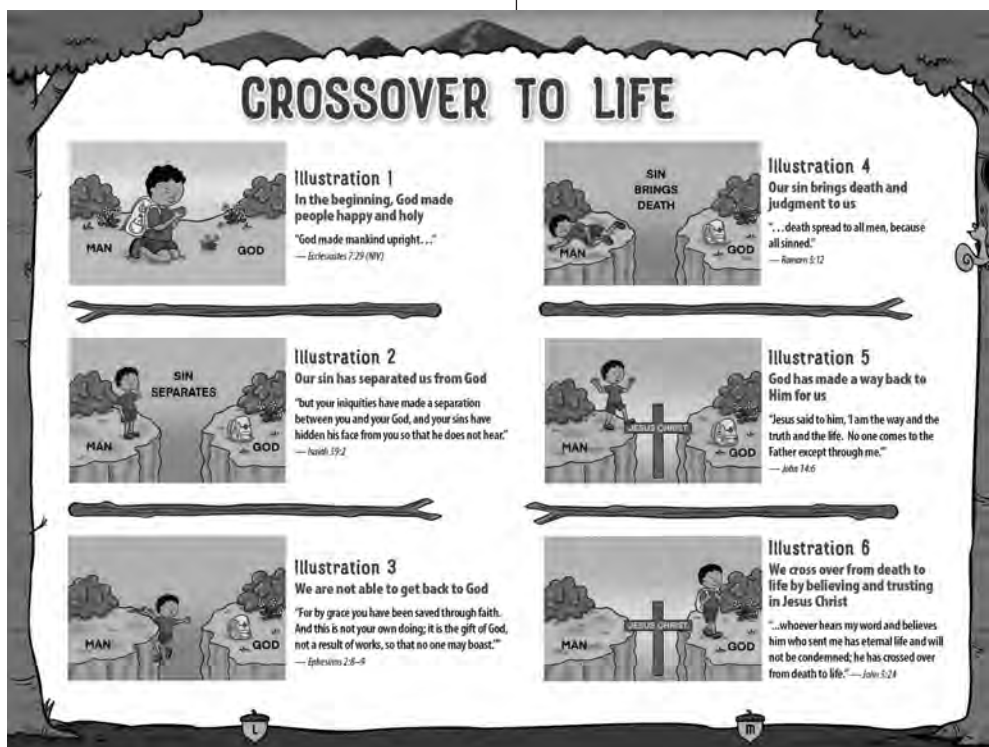
- presented daily during Setting Up or Breaking Camp by the Gospel Presenter through theme-related skits and visual aids
- pictured in the Student Trail Log

✿ **Bible Explo (daily Bible reading)**

To encourage spending time in God's Word each day, Upward Bound's goals include having the children read (or have read to them) a short daily devotional at home in preparation for the coming day.

This daily Bible reading is:

- intended to prepare the children's hearts for the day's Bible lesson
- accompanied by an age-graded commentary
- included in Trail Log



Stickers

Each day the Backpackers gain colorful new stickers to place on their Trail Log's center Hiker sticker page.

Trail Log Strickers

| | Backpacker Gear | Memorize Main Verses | Read Bible Explo | Trail Discoveries in Training Log | |
|--------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| Day 1 |  Walking stick |  Map |  Tent |  Tree | |
| | Backpacker Gear | Memorize Main Verses | Read Bible Explo | Trail Discoveries in Training Log | Crossover to Life verses |
| Day 2 |  Canteen |  Lantern |  Sleeping Bag |  Tree |  Trees |
| | Backpacker Gear | Memorize Main Verses | Read Bible Explo | Trail Discoveries in Training Log | Crossover to Life verses |
| Day 3 |  Binoculars |  Frog |  First Aid Kit |  Tree |  Trees |
| | Backpacker Gear | Memorize Main Verses | Read Bible Explo | Trail Discoveries in Training Log | Crossover to Life verses |
| Day 4 |  Flashlight |  Bird |  Rope |  Tree |  Trees |
| | Backpacker Gear | Memorize Main Verses | Read Bible Explo | Trail Discoveries in Training Log | |
| Day 5 |  Compass |  Ant |  Hatchet |  Tree | |

Attend Training Meetings

Critical to your preparation for Upward Bound is your attendance and active participation in training meetings. These sessions:

- prepare your heart and mind
- develop unity with the entire staff
- outline your church's vision for the program and its outreach
- convey daily schedules and plans for your Summit Celebration
- prepare you for your role in leading your small group of Backpackers
- provide departmental planning for each Expedition
- promote prayer for God to pour out His Spirit on your ministry!

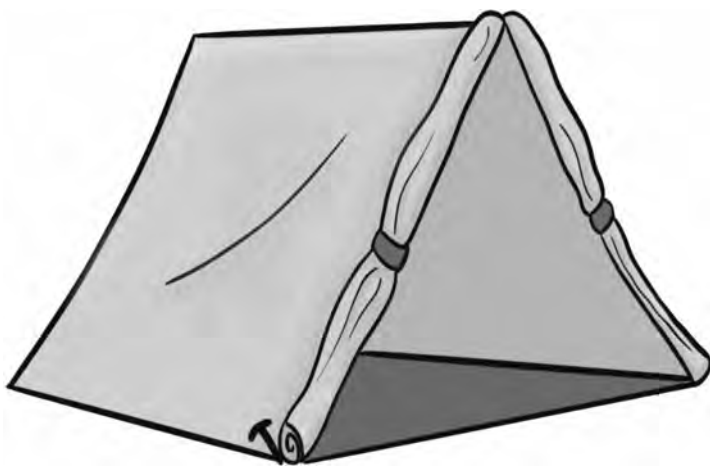
Bless and encourage your Trail Guide, and be blessed in return, by your commitment to faithful attendance and wholehearted participation.

Decorate Outpost

Just prior to Upward Bound, you'll decorate your classroom. This is a fun time for creative juices to flow and find expression as you, along with other staff and church members, put together intriguing Outposts.

Prepare Your Heart

As VBS approaches, be in prayer for your Director, your fellow staff, and the Backpackers God will bring. Believe that God has specifically called you to this Gospel ministry, and trust that the Spirit of our Lead Guide Jesus, is living in you and equipping you with all you need to love and minister to your Upward Bound Backpackers!



Gathering Gear

Begin accumulating backpacking gear and decorations early to help bring the great outdoors inside your church walls. Your garage, yard sales, and thrift stores are great places to start looking. Watch for post-Christmas sales on artificial trees!



On the Trail

Leading Your Backpackers Through Upward Bound

| What and Where | Your Role |
|--|--|
| REGISTRATION (pre-start) STAFF PRAYER Outside (weather permitting) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• welcome arriving children• greet parents and warmly reach out to them |
| SETTING UP CAMP (opening assembly with singing, offering, Gospel Presentation) 30 minutes Base Camp | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• sit among the Backpackers in your Expedition• encourage respectful attention and enthusiastic participation |
| TRAINING LOG ENTRY (Training Log Reporting in small groups) 30 minutes Outpost | <p>Guides and Assistant Guides on Day 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• write children's names on Training Log• briefly familiarize them with Training Logs• explain how stickers are gained• Go through Day 1 content as a group in class (for this first day):<ul style="list-style-type: none">— emphasize the need to bring their "gear" (Training Log and Bible) every day to receive stickers— read Bible Exploration aloud; encourage them to read the Day 2's Bible Exploration at home <i>before tomorrow</i>; emphasize the importance of daily Bible reading• initial Training Logs for above work• turn to Training Log, and explain what they can do at home in preparation for Event 2• distribute stickers: <p>Guides & Assistant Guides on 2nd–5th Days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• help Backpackers to learn memory work or read Bible Exploration if not completed at home• briefly familiarize new Backpackers with Training Logs; explain importance of bringing gear every day; have them start on the day's work• distribute stickers |

| <i>What and Where</i> | <i>Your Role</i> |
|---|--|
| <p>BIBLE LESSON <i>(Bible lessons taught by costumed Storyteller)</i> 20 minutes</p> <p>Bible Lesson Site</p> | <p>Guides & Assistant Guides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • study the lessons in advance • sit interspersed among Backpackers during the lesson so that you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — communicate its importance to the children — are blessed by the rich teaching — can effectively lead the children through their worksheets and class discussion — can encourage and be sensitive to their heart response to the lesson • pray for God to grant repentance and faith |
| <p>TRAINING LOG ENTRY <i>(Training Log, Bible lesson application discussion & worksheets)</i> 20 minutes</p> <p>Outpost</p> | <p>Backpackers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete Training Log worksheet questions • participate in small group discussion <p>Coaches & Assistant Coaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • study the worksheet questions and answer sheets before the Bible Lesson to understand how best to lead your Backpackers through them • determine how best to lead your Backpackers through the questions; you may want to cover some portions as a class and others individually • eliminate one or more of the lesser important questions if you discover the worksheets are too long or difficult for your Backpackers • pray with your group that God would apply the truths to their hearts and enable them to live them out by His Spirit |
| <p>RECREATION 20 minutes</p> <p>Recreation Site</p> | <p>Guides & Assistant Guides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take a break to get your own snack, etc. unless assigned to help |

| <i>What and Where</i> | <i>Your Role</i> |
|--|---|
| TRAIL TREATS <i>10 minutes</i> Snack Site | Guides & Assistant Guides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lead children in prayer before beginning snack |
| CRAFTS <i>20 minutes</i> Craft Site | Guides & Assistant Guides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join any children struggling to make their craft |
| BREAKING CAMP <i>(closing assembly with singing, review of key Bible lesson truths, prayer)</i> <i>30 minutes</i> Base Camp | Guides & Assistant Guides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bring your Backpackers to Breaking Camp on time • sit among the Backpackers in your Expedition • encourage attentive listening and enthusiastic participation • pray for your Backpackers that the Biblical truths that were taught throughout the day would impact their hearts • greet community parents who come to pick up their children |



Making the Most of Trail Blazing



Advance Preparation

■ **Study the Bible lessons**

Even though you're not teaching the Bible lessons directly, one of your highest priorities should be to study the lessons and think about how each part of Upward Bound reinforces the lesson truths. Determine ways you can communicate this perspective to the children as you guide them through the day's activities. *You don't need to remember all the facts and concepts*, but a foundational understanding of each lesson will transform your perspective of each day's activities and equip you as you disciple your Backpackers. Consider the following suggestions:

- do a Bible Study with others based on the Bible Lesson Curriculum
- read the Bible lessons in your personal devotions throughout the weeks leading up to Upward Bound
- re-read each lesson the night before it will be presented

■ **Know the Trail Log**

Knowing the Trail Log cover to cover is one of the most important things you can do to prepare for Upward Bound! A thorough knowledge of its contents makes a world of difference in carrying out your Upward Bound day, and will help you to confidently lead your Backpackers through their daily work.

Daily Preparation

■ **Prepare Your Heart**

Cover each day, your Backpackers, your

fellow staff members, and yourself in prayer prior to each day. Review the upcoming Bible lesson, worksheets, and memory work.

Using the Time Wisely

■ **Guiding with Grace**

Your role in the lives of your Backpackers is of tremendous significance. You'll spend the greatest amount of time with the children and represent Jesus to them—all week long! Ask the Holy Spirit to give you an attitude of joyful, loving servanthood overflowing with His love, patience, and peace as you guide these dear ones through their Upward Bound adventure.

■ **Use Upward Bound Lingo**

Heighten the sense of adventure at VBS by using Upward Bound's "Trail Talk" as you move through each day.

■ **Keep Watch**

Be sensitive to how your Backpackers are responding to the Gospel throughout the week, and look for opportunities to talk individually with them about it. On Day 5, the Backpackers are encouraged to explain "Crossover to Life" to you. This provides a natural occasion for you to ask, "In which of the 6 Illustrations do you see yourself?" to learn where each child perceives himself to be in relationship to Jesus and the Gospel.

Recording & Rewarding Trail Log Work

■ **Send those Trail Logs Home!**

Trust us! Decades of Reachout experience

(continued)

have proven that children *do* bring their Trail Logs back each morning. The Trail Logs include at-home work, and for some families are the initial means of getting the Word into the home!

■ **One for All!**

Communicate that each Backpacker has a significant role to play, that goals exist to challenge each one individually and are opportunities for him to contribute to his team. Point out that stickers, though fun, have no lasting value; what *will* remain are the discoveries the Backpackers make about Jesus Christ and His Word. Pray that God will soften your Backpackers' hearts toward Him, and cause them to desire to know Him and His Word more than they desire to get stickers.

■ **Missing Gear**

It is increasingly likely you will have children at your table who don't own a Bible. Your classroom supplies should include Bibles you can give to these children to bring each day and then keep following Upward Bound.

■ **Reward Effort**

Teach each child according to individual ability. If a child tries his best to memorize a verse but does not say it word-perfect, reward that effort with a sticker. Though discerning ability can be difficult, it's important to reward and thereby encourage good attitude and hard work. *Let grace shine through!*

■ **Share the Trees**

Use Tree stickers from any sticker sheet for any child, knowing that some Backpackers will earn more and some less than the number provided on each sheet.



**VBS Reachout
Theme Rotation:**

Upward Bound
Genesis 1: Space Mission
Summer Seaquest
Upward Bound

Summit Celebration

Begin early in the week to build your Backpackers' enthusiasm for your Upward Bound closing program so they will be sure to invite their friends. The Summit Celebration is an opportune time to establish contact with the parents of your Backpackers in a way that may not otherwise be possible during the week. This final closing program:

- gives parents a comfortable setting in which to meet you, other staff, and your pastor
- lets parents hear directly why you and your church have invested so much in their children
- allows children to display what they have learned at Upward Bound
- is a witness to parents of the love of Christ you have showered on their children all week



The Trek Beyond

Life After Upward Bound

Maintaining contact with your Backpackers after Upward Bound is over may be one of your greatest challenges as Guide. After a full and fast-paced week, you may feel you have little energy to devote to follow-up. Life's other demands which you set aside for the week will clamor for your attention, and the Enemy will try to deter you from follow-up. Winning this battle will require prayer, bold faith, and a specific plan, however simple.

Lay Groundwork for Follow-Up

- ✿ Pray in advance for God to increase your desire for your Backpackers to believe and live out the Gospel.
- ✿ Ask Him to give you insight into where their hearts are and how best to establish a relationship with them.
- ✿ Pray for an opportunity to meet their parents when they drop off or pick up their child, or at the closing program.
- ✿ Pray for God to show you throughout the week simple ways (see suggestions below) to lay the groundwork for follow-up.
- ✿ Pray for the energy, courage, and faith to obey the Spirit's promptings.

Then watch God work!

Contact Backpackers/Parents

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- ✿ Send a note home or call parents early in the week to introduce yourself and find out if they have any questions.
- ✿ Watch for and greet your Backpackers' parents as they drop off/pick up their children, and at the Summit Celebration.
- ✿ Take photos of your small group to include with a personal note the week or two following Upward Bound. Let them know about your church Sunday School/youth programs, and encourage them to join you for next year's VBS.
- ✿ If a child responds to the Gospel, send home a tract or pamphlet about becoming a Christian and living the Christian life.
- ✿ If your church holds a follow-up day or other special children's or youth activity, call your students to personally invite them.



LOOK ONLINE

for additional resources (music, artwork, and publicity information) are available on the Upward Bound portal. Talk to your Director for more information or visit: **portal.reachoutadventures.com**

TEACHING 4's-K

Expedition D



Abounding in Backpackers!

Yours is a high calling! For many churches, Expedition D is the largest department, comprising up to one half of their total VBS enrollment.

4's-K's developmental realities differ significantly from that of the older Backpackers, however, so awareness of these differences and use of age-appropriate learning methods are essential for your effectiveness (and Expedition D's joy!). The pages that follow provide you with insights and guidelines this wonderful age group.

Key Distinctives

Because this age learns best in a setting that is both *lively and orderly*, the best guarantees for a successful Upward Bound day are:

- ✿ your *enthusiastic love* for the Lord and these energetic young Backpackers
- ✿ diligent *preparation, organization, and prayer*

Expedition D's age-appropriate schedule includes the following:

✿ Whole-group activities

- Bible lesson reviews
- Bible memory work (learning and reciting)
- singing
- Crossover to Life

✿ Small Group Table Time

- memory work
- Bible lesson application worksheets
- stickers

✿ Learning Sites

- rotating in small groups through lesson-related, hands-on learning activities and crafts (pages 20-28).

A Typical Day

(shaded areas indicate when Guides are in charge)

| What | How Long | Where |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Registration, Staff Prayer | Pre-start and 5 minutes | Outside (weather permitting) |
| Setting Up Camp | 15 minutes | Base Camp |
| Bible Lesson | 20 minutes | Outpost |
| Campfire Circle | 10 minutes | Outpost |
| Trail Blazing, Learning Sites | 30 minutes | Outpost |
| Trail Break | 20 minutes | Recreation Site |
| Trail Blazing, Trail Treats | 15 minutes | Outpost |
| Campfire Circle | 10 minutes | Outpost |
| Trail Blazing, Learning Sites | 30 minutes | Outpost |
| Campfire Circle | 10 minutes | Outpost |
| Breaking Camp | 15 minutes | Base Camp |



Learning Sites

Set Up

Instructions for Guides in charge:

- ✿ **Craft Site**—Set up table, chairs, and supplies needed for daily project; display sample.
- ✿ **Hands-On Site**—Set up a table, no chairs, and supplies needed for the day's activities.
- ✿ **Mystery Site**—As the name indicates, the nature of the activity for this Site changes each day. See daily instructions for needed set-up and supplies.
- ✿ **Action Site**—The activity in this Site always involves acting out and experiencing part of the day's story. Various costumes and props are required each day; some items are used on multiple days.
- ✿ **Lesson Handwork Site**—Set up a table, chairs, and supplies needed for daily project. Display sample of the day's project.

Keep in mind that *it is not necessary to do all the Sites each day*. Choose those you believe will be most effective and manageable in your particular situation.



Developmental Realities for 4's-K

- **General** The first reality to consider for these children is the significant developmental span between the just 4's and Kindergarteners. Be sure to learn the age of each child and *adjust your expectations accordingly*; otherwise you may make the mistake of underestimating the petite child and expecting too much of the faster-growing child.
- **Physically** These children are very active and need lots of space in which to move around. Many of them will have only beginning reading and scissor skills.
- **Emotionally** 4's-K need lots of approval, some individual attention, and full acceptance of the unique person God has created each one of them to be. Allow each child to be special! Try not to hurry them, and watch for indications of frustration *before* behavior problems arise. If a child is having a difficult time, provide an alternate activity. Pressuring a resistant child usually leads to tears, class disruption, and the need to take Mom or Dad away from her or his VBS assignment.
- **Spiritually** Reinforce basic Gospel truths and review the Storyteller's message in simple language. Encourage the children to pray. Their prayers may sound like mumbling to you, but their heavenly Father hears them very clearly!
- **Cognitively** The 4's-K child learns with simple rote—repeat, repeat, repeat! And because he learns with his whole body, do as much with drama, motions, sounds, and other sensory activities as possible! (Don't ask him to learn just by sitting and listening to accommodate an adult teaching style of "teaching by talking.") Appeal to the child's curiosity. Remember that the attention span is fairly short at this age, so alternate busy and quiet activities. Make learning fun and leave the children with wonderful memories of Upward Bound!



Memory Verse Hand Motions *(Philippians 2:10–11)*


| | | |
|--------------|--|---|
| Day 1 | At the name of Jesus | Touch palms of hands with middle finger, alternating left & right. |
| | every | Make all-inclusive motion by extending hands in front, fingertips touching, then sweeping hands in arc to sides. |
| | knee | Index fingers touch respective knees. |
| | should bow | Bend forward at waist with arms extended, palms down. |
| Day 2 | in heaven | Turn palms face up, sweep arms up and out, looking upward. |
| | and on earth | Form fist with left hand; wrap right hand around “earth.” |
| | and under the earth | Leaving left hand in place, move right hand, fingers flat together, and palm down, “under the earth.” |
| Day 3 | and every | Make all-inclusive motion by extending hands in front, fingertips touching, then sweeping hands in arc to sides. |
| | tongue confess | Form “C” with each hand using all fingers, hold in front of chest; arc up and out to turn palms up, as if revealing what’s inside your heart. |
| | that Jesus Christ | Touch palms of hands with middle finger, alternating left & right. |
| | is Lord | Extend index and thumb on right hand (forming an ‘L’), sweep downward from left shoulder across to right hip as if revealing a royal sash. |
| Day 4 | to the glory of God the Father. | Looking skyward, raise arms in worship, palms up. |
| Day 5 | <i>Review entire verse with motions.</i> | |

LEARNING SITES AT A GLANCE


| Sites | Craft Site | Hands-On Site | Mystery Site | Action Site | Lesson Handwork Site |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Day 1 | Upward Bound Backpack | Birth of Christ Scene | Fishing Trip | Jesus’ Birth | The Angel Gabriel Figure |
| Day 2 | Philippians 2:10–11 Picture Frame | Building The Temple | Campfire Stew | Jesus’ Journey to Jerusalem | The Temple Action Picture |
| Day 3 | My Bible Journal | Temptation in the Desert Landscape | Temptation Lumps | Jesus’ Temptation | “Christ is My Compass” Action Picture |
| Day 4 | Stained-Glass Cross | Heart and Cross Puzzles | First Aid Forgiveness Kit | Jesus’ Journey to the Cross | “Jesus Died to Save Us” Cross Necklace |
| Day 5 | “Focus on Jesus” Binoculars | Jesus’ Empty Tomb | Before and After Boots | Jesus’ Return to Heaven | “Jesus Has Risen from the Dead!” Action Picture |




Lesson 1: The Surprising Journey — *Born in the Likeness of Men*

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Craft Site <i>Upward Bound Backpack</i> (see sidebar) | <i>During Craft Site, help children:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Insert cardboard in backpack.■ Write name on name tag.■ Decorate backpack using sponges, stamps, or stencils (for best results use minimal paint).■ Lay backpack on tarp to dry overnight. |   Where Do I Find It? Detailed instructions for Craft and Lesson Handwork Sites, as well as patterns referred to in other Sites, are in the Craft Curriculum. Make a Fishing Hole & Pole <i>Materials:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ blue tarp or cloth■ one 2' long dowel■ drill■ magnet with hole■ string <i>In Advance:</i> Fishing Hole: Lay tarp or cloth on floor. Fishing Poles: Drill hole in end of dowel; tie one end of string through hole and other end through magnet. |
| Hands-On Site <i>Birth of Christ Scene</i> | <i>Materials:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 1 or 2 large shoe boxes for “stables”■ layer of straw for “floor”■ figures from sturdy nativity set <i>During Hands-On Site:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Children arrange nativity set in stable. <i>Sample Questions to ask:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Where did Jesus live before He came to earth? Where was He born? Was it like Heaven? Why did Jesus decide to leave Heaven? | |
| Mystery Site <i>Fishing Trip</i> | <i>Materials:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ fish shape pattern (see page 28)■ cardstock (any colors)■ 2–3 children’s magnetic fishing poles; blue tarp (sidebar, page 21)■ 9 large paper clips <i>In Advance:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Copy fish shapes onto cardstock and cut out■ Write out or draw/glue pictures of the following words onto fish shape then attach paper clip:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heaven• angel• Mary• Joseph• manger• stable• sheep/cow• strips of cloth• the child Jesus <i>During Mystery Site:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Have children take turns catching fish.■ As each child catches a fish, talk about its word and how it fits into today’s story.■ Discuss concepts such as poor, no room at the inn, obedience, perfection, kindness, being a good friend, sharing. | |
| Action Site <i>Jesus’ Birth</i> | <i>Materials:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ angel costume: white robe with gold tie belt, wings■ Mary and Joseph costumes: robes/tunics, tie belts, scarf-style headdresses, sandals, beard■ cardboard box “manger” with straw■ stuffed stable animals <i>During Action Site:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Children enact story of Jesus’ birth. | |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  | <p>Lesson Handwork Site <i>The Angel Gabriel Figure</i> (see <i>Craft Curriculum</i>)</p> | <p><i>During Craft Site, help children:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write name on backside, then color the body and wings. ■ Cut along the dashed lines. Fold the wings forward along the dotted lines. Wrap the angles gown into a cone, overlap left side to align with the small lines on the back of the wing, then tap or staple. <p><i>Sample Questions to ask:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Do you remember what Gabriel was sent by God to do? What did Gabriel say this special baby's name was to be? What did His name mean? |
|---|--|---|

Lesson 2: The Humbling Journey — *The Form of a Servant*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | <p>Craft Site <i>Philippians 2:10–11</i> <i>Picture Frame</i> (see <i>Craft Curriculum</i>)</p> | <p><i>During Craft Site, help children:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write name on back of frame. ■ Glue Scripture passage to back of frame with Scripture centered in frame opening. ■ Attach Upward Bound sign to front of frame. ■ Attach woodland foam shapes and/or stickers to front of frame. ■ String twine through holes and tie with knot at top. |
| | <p>Hands-On Site <i>Building the Temple</i></p> | <p><i>Materials:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ blocks (regular or Duplo®) ■ Playmobil® or Duplo® people, animals, etc. ■ picture of Temple <p><i>During Hands-On Site:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Show children picture of Temple; have them “build” Temple and arrange figures in outer courts. <p><i>Sample Questions to ask:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Who traveled to the Temple in Jerusalem? Why were they going there? Who thought their son was lost? Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus? What was He doing? Did Jesus ever disobey? |
| | <p>Mystery Site <i>Campfire Stew</i> (continued)</p> | <p><i>Materials:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ large cooking pot ■ toothpicks and/or tape ■ 8 stew ingredients, real or artificial, for the children to “cook,” such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potato • onion • turnip • carrot • corn • squash • celery • string bean • pasta ■ large grocery bag <p><i>In Advance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write word phrases about today's lesson on paper; attach to stew ingredients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trip to Jerusalem • celebrate Passover |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Mystery Site <i>Campfire Stew</i> <i>(continued)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • families return to Nazareth • can't find Jesus • Mary and Joseph return to Jerusalem • find Jesus in the Temple • "I had to be in my Father's house!" • Jesus returns home with his parents <p>■ Put ingredients in bag.</p> <p><i>During Mystery Site:</i></p> <p>■ Children take turns selecting an ingredient from grocery bag.</p> <p>■ As each child selects an ingredient, read and talk about the story words attached to it.</p> <p>■ Guide children in lining up vegetables in storyline order.</p> <p>■ When order is correct, have children place ingredients in pot. Place lid on pot. "Soup's on!"</p> <p><i>Sample Questions to ask:</i></p> <p>■ How did our story begin today? Why were they traveling there? What comes next?</p> |  <p>Backup Books</p> <p>Have books relating to the Bible lesson, backpacking, the forest and mountains, etc. available to fill in extra time.</p> |
| <p>Action Site <i>Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem</i></p> | <p><i>Materials:</i></p> <p>■ Israelite costumes (robes/tunics, tie belts, sandals, beards, staff, scarf-style headdresses)</p> <p>■ baskets or sacks with provisions for journey—food, blanket, etc.</p> <p>■ large cardboard box with cut-out "eye of the needle" archway entrance into the city</p> <p><i>During Action Site:</i></p> <p>■ Children enact Jesus' journey to Jerusalem.</p> | |
| <p>Lesson Handwork Site <i>The Temple</i> <i>Action Picture</i></p> <p><i>(see Craft Curriculum)</i></p> | <p><i>During Lesson Handwork Site, help children:</i></p> <p>■ Write name on back of Temple; color.</p> <p>■ Decorate body shape in each door to represent the people God wants them to obey. Introduce this by saying, "One of the ways that we obey Jesus is by obeying those people He has put in our lives to lead and teach us. Who are some of them?" (<i>parents, pastors, teachers</i>)</p> <p>■ Write name for each person on back of door flap (<i>Mom, Dad, Pastor Jones, etc.</i>) so name can be read when flap is lifted.</p> <p>■ Tape or glue top of doors to Temple doorway. Demonstrate how doors can be opened.</p>  |  |

Lesson 3: The Obedient Journey —*Humbled Himself by Being Obedient*



Craft Site *My Bible Journal*

(see *Craft Curriculum*)

During Craft Site, help children:

- Write name on front of Journal in blank sign.
- Glue Temptation story pictures and corresponding Bible verse answers in order on page 1–3, reading the words together.
- Glue Scripture passage onto page 4, reading the words together.
- Lace book together with twine; tie ends with knot to secure.
- String end of ribbon through top hole of Journal, secure with knot.
- Tape bottom end of ribbon to compass to form bookmark.

Hands-On Site *Temptation in the Desert Landscape*

Materials:

- tub filled with sand or gravel
- small implements to dig, shape dunes, level sand
- stones, dried twigs
- plastic desert animals: camels, birds, hyenas, snakes, lizards, rodents, scorpions, ants, spiders, etc.

During Hands-On Site:

- Have children create their own desert scenes.

Sample Questions to ask:

- Where did Jesus stay for 40 days? Did Jesus get hungry there? What did Satan tempt Jesus to do? What did Jesus do instead?

Mystery Site *Temptation Lumps*

Materials:

- “Temptation” magazine pictures
- sleeping bag, bed roll, or pillow
- rocks (or brown paper bags crumpled and stuffed with newspaper)
- masking/packing tape

In Advance:

- Cut out magazine pictures of items that can become temptations to young children; attach pictures to rocks with tape.
- Place rocks throughout rolled out sleeping bag.



During Mystery Site:


- Have children take turns lying down on lumpy sleeping bag.
- Say, “Let’s see what’s causing the lumps in our sleeping bag.”
- As each child removes a lump, discuss how that item (even though it might be good in itself) can become a temptation to us and cause us to sin.
- Discuss how we resist temptation as Jesus did: through prayer and obeying the Bible, the Word of God.
- When all lumps are gone, have children play in the now “comfy” sleeping bag.

Action Site *Jesus’ Temptation (continued)*


Materials:

- large stone
- loaf of bread
- container of jewelry or toy money (riches)

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Action Site <i>Jesus' Temptation</i> <i>(continued)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ tall cardboard "Temple" box ■ Bible <p><i>During Action Site:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children enact the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. | |
| Lesson Handwork Site <i>"Christ is My Compass"</i> <i>Action Picture</i> <i>(see Craft Curriculum)</i> | <p><i>During Lesson Handwork Site, help children:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write name on back of compass back. ■ Color praying hands, Bible, and dove on compass wheel. ■ Assemble compass using paper fastener and prepared holes in center of each compass part. ■ Read text on compass; discuss. |  |
| Lesson 4: The Painful Journey —Obedient to Death on a Cross | | |
| Craft Site <i>Stained-Glass Cross Magnet</i> <i>(see Craft Curriculum)</i> | <p><i>During Craft Site, help children:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write name on back of cross. ■ Lightly paint glue on front of cross. ■ Attach tissue squares onto front until cross is covered. ■ Paint another layer of glue over tissue paper. ■ While glue is still wet, place red heart on center of cross. <p><i>Adult:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lay cross in tray to dry overnight. ■ Trim excess tissue; attach magnet strip to back. |  |
| Hands-on Site <i>Heart and Cross Puzzles</i> | <p><i>Materials:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ one 8" posterboard/foam heart per child in Site group; use varying colors <p><i>In Advance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Draw large cross on each heart with permanent marker. ■ Cut heart into 4 or more puzzle shapes. <p><i>During Hands-On Site:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Have children assemble heart puzzles. <p><i>Sample Questions to ask:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Did Jesus ever sin? Why did Jesus die? Does God love us and want to forgive us? What does God want us to do when we sin? | |
| Mystery Site <i>First Aid Forgiveness Kit</i> <i>(continued)</i> | <p><i>Materials:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ first aid kit or shoebox with red cross on it ■ 5 first aid items: empty bandaid box, gauze, medical tape, Ace® bandage, first aid ointment, etc. ■ 3 "wrong" items: small toy, child's hat, book, etc. ■ paper squares <p><i>In Advance:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write sentences about today's lesson on paper squares: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can make our hearts clean by ourselves. (F) • I must ask Jesus to forgive my sins. (T) | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
|  | Mystery Site <i>First Aid Forgiveness Kit (continued)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus died to save us. (T) • God forgives us when we ask Him from our hearts. (T) • We can go to Heaven by trying to be good. (F) • Jesus is the only Savior. (T) • We must believe in Jesus to be saved. (T) • Jesus won't forgive me if I sin every day. (F) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tape true phrases to first aid items. ■ Tape false phrases to wrong items. <p><i>During Mystery Site:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ As each child selects an item, read phrase to children. ■ Help children decide if phrase is true or false, then have child place item in First Aid Forgiveness Kit or lay false item on table. |
| | Action Site <i>Jesus' Journey to the Cross</i> | <p><i>Materials:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Roman soldier costumes: plastic armor, sandals ■ Simon of Cyrene costume: bright robe/tunic, turban-style headdress, sandals ■ mourning womens' costumes: dark robes, skirts, tie belts, scarf-style headwraps, sandals <p><i>During Action Site:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children enact Jesus' journey to the cross. |
| | Lesson Handwork Site <i>"Jesus Died to Save Us" Cross Necklace</i> <i>(see Craft Curriculum)</i> | <p><i>During Lesson Handwork Site, help children:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fold cross over mid-point of yarn; glue backsides of cross together. ■ Write name on back of cross. ■ String 9 pony beads on each side of cross as shown. ■ Tie ends of yarn together securely. ■ Read words written on cross: "Jesus died to save us." ■ Put on their necklaces. |

Lesson 5: The Joy of the Journey — God Has Highly Exalted Him

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  | Craft Site <i>"Focus on Jesus" Binoculars</i> <i>(see Craft Curriculum)</i> | <p><i>During Craft Site, help children:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write name inside of one toilet paper roll. ■ Tape a binocular cover to each roll with transparent tape. ■ Tape rolls together at each end of with transparent tape. ■ Punch hole at black dot located on each roll. ■ Tape one end of "Focus on Jesus" band onto side of binoculars with double-sided tape, then wrap around around both rolls as shown; secure with double-sided tape. ■ Push one end of plastic lacing through one hole and tie with knot; repeat with other end in remaining hole. ■ Read text on band. |
|---|--|---|

Hands-On Site
Jesus' Empty Tomb

Materials:

- 1 play-dough ball per child in Site group
- small strips of gauze or muslin
- stiff spatula for scraping table top

During Hands-On Site, have children:

- Shape balls of play-dough into cave shape.
- Make indentation in tomb by removing small piece of dough to use for stone.
- Put linen wrappings in tomb.
- Shape small piece of dough into stone and "roll" in front of tomb.

Sample Questions to ask:

- Where was Jesus buried after He died on the cross? Who spoke to Mary when she went to find His body? Where did he say Jesus was? How did Jesus leave His friends—on an airplane?

Mystery Site
Before-and-After Boots

Materials:

- hiking boot pattern (see page 28)
- cardstock
- 6' piece of butcher paper
- small backpack, duffel bag, or other camping container to hold boots

In Advance:

- Copy hiking boots onto cardstock; cut out.
- On butcher paper draw simple timeline trail from lower left to upper right, with manger scene at lower left, empty tomb in center, and sun, mountaintop, or throne at upper right, representing Heaven.
- Label each boot with one of the following words or phrases: sad, in hiding, scared, keeping secret, locked doors, confused, no hope, dead, happy, excited, bold, in public, telling others, believing, hope, Jesus is alive!

During Mystery Site:

- Say, "These boots describe Jesus' disciples and friends right after He died on the cross, and then how they were when they knew He had risen from the tomb."
- Have each child reach in and select a boot.
- Read words and ask, "Does this boot belong before or after Jesus' disciples knew He had risen from the tomb?"
- Use questions to help child figure it out; have child place boot on trail accordingly.
- Repeat until all boots are placed on timeline.




Play-Dough Recipe

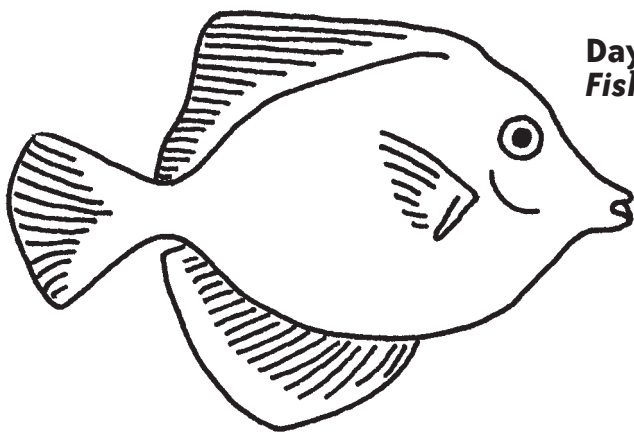
- ☐ 2 ½ c. flour
- ☐ 3 T. vegetable oil
- ☐ ½ c. salt
- ☐ 1 T. cream of tartar
- ☐ 2 c. boiling water

Mix dry ingredients. Add oil and boiling water. Stir well. Knead until smooth. Store in airtight container.

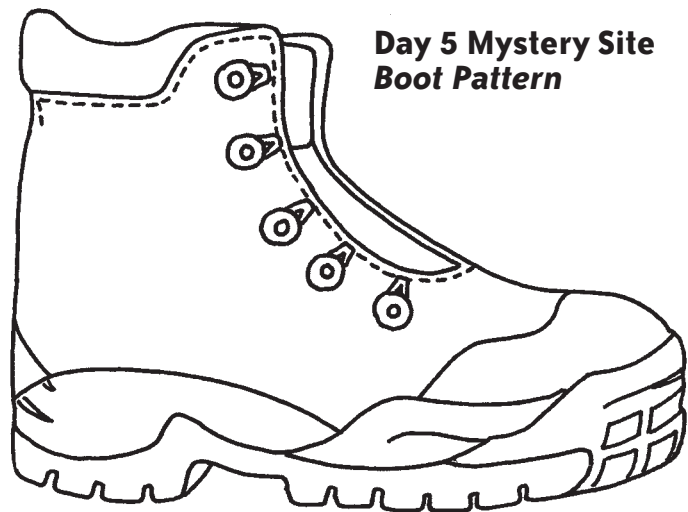


| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | Action Site <i>Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension</i> | Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ large empty box with entrance cut out (for tomb) ■ muslin fabric for grave linens ■ angel costumes: white robe/tunic with gold tie belt, wings ■ Israelite costumes: robe/tunic, tie belt, sandals, beard, scarf-style headdress During Action Site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Children enact Jesus' resurrection and ascension. |
|  | Lesson Handwork Site <i>"Jesus Has Risen From the Dead"</i> <i>Action Picture</i> <i>(see Craft Curriculum)</i> | During Lesson Handwork Site, help children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write name on back of tomb picture. ■ Place flower stickers at base of tomb. ■ Color angel and glue inside tomb. ■ Attach stone to tomb at provided dots with paper fastener; "roll" stone away. ■ Read words on stone: "Jesus has risen from the dead! He is alive!" |

PATTERNS FOR MYSTERY SITES



Day 1 Mystery Site
Fish Pattern



Day 5 Mystery Site
Boot Pattern

THE VBS REACHOUT ADVENTURES STORY

God's plan for Upward Bound had its inception in the 1950's when the Rev. William B. Leonard, Jr. (PCA), and his wife, Helen, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, were introduced to an exciting Vacation Bible School written by Dr. and Mrs. Wilbur Wallis of St. Louis. Enthused about this unusual VBS, the Leonards' hearts were set on creating a thematic Bible school of similar high caliber for the children in their own church and community. They spent the next 30 years engaged in an innovative VBS ministry that drew hundreds of children to their church each year, bringing many to salvation in Jesus Christ. The Leonards' highly effective work so inspired other churches around the country that up to the time of their retirement from the pastorate, the Leonards received a steady stream of requests for help in implementing their approach in

other congregations. In reply, Helen, lacking published material, wrote numerous personal letters to convey their Bible school concepts. Due to the demands of the pastorate, publishing a formal curriculum was not a possibility. God was yet to send one three decades later.

The Leonards' children eagerly attended their parents' Vacation Bible Schools and, even in their early years, helped in preparing them. When youngest daughter Anna became a Christian Education Director in 1976 at Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Muncie, Indiana, one of her first tasks was to help direct a VBS program



using a commercial curriculum. The contrast in quality between what was available on the commercial market and the exciting, high-caliber Bible schools that she had experienced in her parents' programs was so great that Anna felt called to develop a curriculum based on her parents' concepts. This she did along with her mother, Helen, and the people of the Westminster congregation, and the seed-bed of what would later become VBS Reachout Adventures was planted. In 1979 the Lord again moved when, as Christian Education Director at Green Lake Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Seattle, Washington, Anna was challenged by her pastor and brother, Stephen Leonard, and John Pickett, pastor of a nearby PCA church, and his wife, Susan, to develop the VBS materials for use by their two respective churches. From this association came the creation of the present four themes of Reachout Adventures' rotating sister schools: Upward Bound, Genesis 1: Space Probe, Summer Seaquest, and Olympion. After three decades, the materials finally were crystalized into a comprehensive curriculum.

Over the next few years so many churches expressed interest in using the curricula that VBS Reachout Adventures was formally created in the 1980's. Many members of Green Lake Presbyterian Church, as well as pastor Stephen Leonard and his wife, Bronwyn Rayburn Leonard, played a very significant role, not only through creative contributions to the materials, but also through their vision, encouragement and steadfast support. Beginning in 1983 Bronwyn authored Reachout Adventures' Bible lessons and daily Bible reading, giving the curricula the wealth of insight, depth, and applicability that, by God's grace, have become hallmarks of this ministry. Bronwyn passed on to glory in September of 1996, after a three-year battle with cancer.

In the ensuing years, God has given many individuals a heart for this ministry, and they have given themselves to various aspects of its development. For these talented contributors we give God deepest thanks. What began as a project for one church God has broadened into a ministry to churches not only nationwide, but overseas as well. Ongoing updates have kept the curriculum current and applicable to today's generation, while maintaining its commitment to solid Biblical teaching

On March 27, 2003, Helen Leonard crossed the river and entered Heaven's gates; Bill followed her on September 21, 2015. They undoubtedly were met with great celebration and reunited with many whom they led to Jesus Christ through their years of ministry in VBS and to Christ's Church. May this be true of each one of us when we finally see Him face to face.
