



# UPWARD BOUND

## Gospel Presentation Manual

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“...whoever hears my word  
and believes him  
who sent me  
has eternal life  
and will not be condemned;  
he has crossed over  
from death to life.”  
John 5:24 (NIV)



# PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

**T**ruly great is the Lord; His ways are high! And yet His Gospel message is within reach of the youngest child attending your VBS. To help you tell of Mt. Zion's God and His saving grace to the next generation at Upward Bound, this special Gospel presentation, Crossover to Life (Crossover), is offered. Pictured below and in the Trail Log, and included in the Content Outline below (pages 7–16), this adaptation of the Navigator's *Bridge to Life*, contains six Illustrations likening life and salvation to a backpacker's spiritual journey.

Crossover's purpose is two-fold:

- to help you explain God's plan of salvation to your Backpackers in a simple form, that many of them may be saved;
- to help the children learn a Gospel presentation, Crossover having been included in the daily memory work goals, which they in turn can tell to their families and friends.

Crossover's dual purpose should be explained to the children as it is taught.

Please note that as part of your preparation for Crossover, you are strongly urged to read the Upward Bound Bible Lesson Curriculum in its entirety, and to attend your staff training meetings. Your familiarity with the curriculum content and overall focus of Upward Bound will prove invaluable as you seek to integrate Crossover with what your Backpacker audience will be learning and experiencing at Upward Bound. During VBS week itself, your daily observation of Setting Up Camp (page 4, "Who" section), as well as of the Mapping the Route Bible lessons when possible, will help you weave the adventure theme, lingo, and lesson and skit truths into your Gospel presentation, making it all the more enjoyable and effective, Lord-willing, for your young listeners.

As you labor to advance Christ's Kingdom in your community through your

Great is the Lord,  
and greatly to be praised  
in the city of our God!

His holy mountain,  
beautiful in elevation,  
is the joy of all the earth,

Mount Zion, in the far north,  
the city of the great King. Walk about  
Zion, go around her,

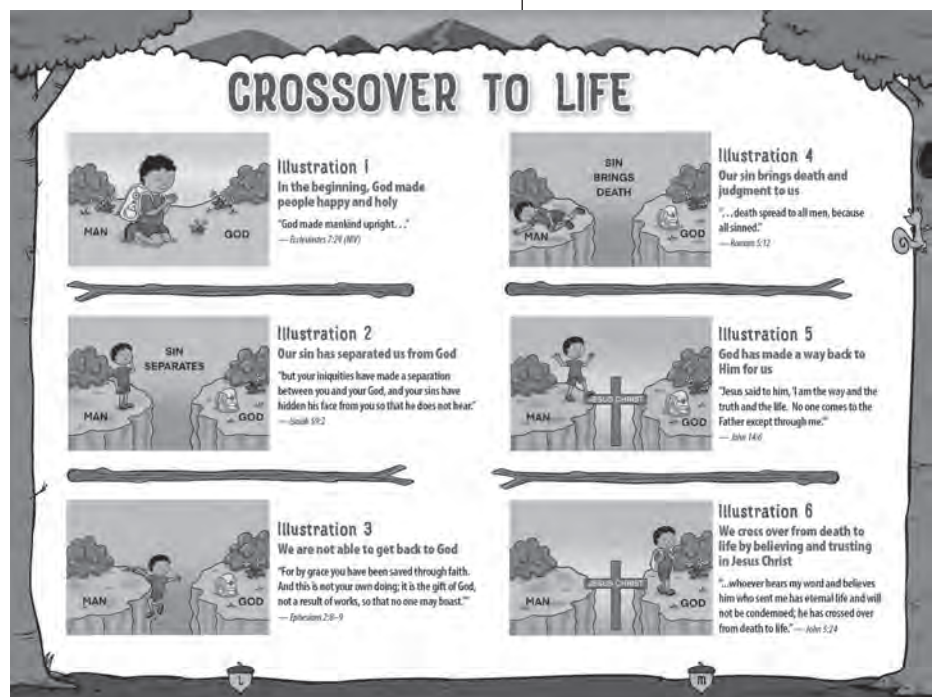
number her towers,  
consider well her ramparts,  
go through her citadels,

that you may tell the next generation

that this is God,  
our God forever and ever.

He will guide us forever.

Psalms 48:1–2, 12–14



<sup>1</sup>Joseph Hart, Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy, 1759.

<sup>2</sup>J.I. Packer, *Introductory Essay in John Owen's The Death of Death in the Death of Christ*, 22.



### **Expedition D (4's–K)**

In order to minimize distractions from these potentially restless little ones, Expedition D may exit *prior* to the body of your presentation if you give your Gospel presentation during Setting Up Camp. If Crossover is given during Breaking Camp, Expedition D may enter Base Camp *after* Crossover has been presented to the older Backpackers. Note also that Expedition D has its own Gospel presentation in its Outpost each day. Coordinate with your VBS Director as to whether you or an Expedition D Guide will give that presentation.

Crossover presentation, prepare your heart before the Lord, drawing near to Jesus, that you may reflect Him to the children. Come to Him in prayer whatever your state—praising, confessing, thanking, pleading. In the words of the great 18th century hymn, “Let not conscience make you linger, nor of fitness fondly dream; all the fitness He requires is to feel your need of Him.”<sup>1</sup> Then go in His name, in His power, heartened with the knowledge that, as J.I. Packer so eloquently expresses below, Christ Himself will be working in and through you:

*...the old gospel is proclaimed in the sure confidence that the Christ of whom it testifies, the Christ who is the real speaker when the Scriptural invitations to trust Him are expounded and applied, is not passively waiting for man's decision as the word goes forth, but is omnipotently active, working with and through the word to bring His people to faith in Himself.... Those who preach [the gospel] know that as they do their work of setting Christ before men's eyes, the mighty Saviour whom they proclaim is busy doing His work through their words, visiting sinners with salvation, awakening them to faith, drawing them in mercy to Himself.<sup>2</sup>*

## **When and Where**

Crossover is designed to be presented to your Grades 1-6 Backpackers (Expeditions A–C) assembled in your Base Camp during Setting Up (preferably) or Breaking Camp each day for four consecutive days beginning on Day 2, and to Expedition D (4's–K) in their Outpost at a time that best suits their individual schedule (see sidebar). Presentation of the six-part message is given as follows:

- Day 2—Intro, Illustrations 1 & 2
- Day 3—Illustrations 3 & 4
- Day 4—Illustrations 5 & 6
- Day 5—Review & conclusion

Each day's content can and should be covered in 5–7 minutes to accommodate the shorter attention spans of the younger children. To give you a sense of timing, note that the introduction's first section on the inerrancy and authority of Scripture (page 7), can be covered in less than 20 seconds when delivered as indicated. Scheduling singing just before Crossover is helpful. Also, specially selected songs sung *after* each presentation are good content reinforcers. Coordinate these with your VBS Director and Song Guide.

## **Who**

### **With Base Camp Assemblies Manual**

If your VBS Director is adhering to the daily assemblies scripts, it is important that you observe the Setting Up Camp (opening assembly) skits in Base Camp each day so that you can weave the developing drama, which reflects the Crossover Illustrations, into your presentations.

When you are introduced (usually toward the end of the assembly), make a grand entrance in eye-catching backpacking attire. After greeting the Backpackers, ask

one or two humorous or straight questions related to the skit and its characters before transitioning into your presentation. Place similarly-related questions throughout your presentation to help the children connect the truths of the skits to the Gospel message. On Days 3 and 4, begin with a quick review: “Remember what happened yesterday? The backpacker was stuck on the cliff, separated from God because of sin. Today we’re going to discover what will happen to him.”

### Without Base Camp Assemblies Manual

If your VBS director is *not* using the Base Camp Assemblies scripts, use the following suggestions to enhance your presentation and engage the attention of your Backpackers.

As the Crossover presenter, appear each day dressed in camping or hiking attire. After greeting the Backpackers, get their attention by asking one or two whimsical or straight outdoor-life questions (“I was roasting marshmallows around the campfire last night with some raccoons and they said to say ‘hi’ to you this morning. Do you know the ones I mean?” or, “How many of you have ever gone hiking?”). You may wish to show some intriguing hiking or climbing gear on alternate days.

As the children are quieting down, have Great Grizzly or some other fanciful character (comical Park Ranger Rob/Ruth) make a grand but quick-moving entrance into Base Camp. (You might point binoculars toward the back, asking, “Say, do you see something big and furry heading this way?” or the like.) In a brief (1–2 minute) exchange, have Great Grizzly introduce himself, display his affection for the children, and then urge them to heed the important message they are about to hear. If desired, Great Grizzly can grunt in “bear talk” and have you “interpret” for him. “What’s that you’re saying, Great Grizzly?” More grunting. “Ah, when you were a young cub, one time you didn’t pay attention to your Bear Guide and you climbed right into a prickly thorn tree. Ouch!” (Note that in your initial presentation, more time is allotted for introducing your guest character.) Then have a happy but speedy “Great Grizzly Good-bye,” perhaps hinting at his return. This creates delightful anticipation in the children, while bringing a sense of continuity to the six-part message. The special guest character makes a vivid and lasting impression on the children, who quickly learn to associate his played-up arrival with a time calling for attentive eyes and listening ears. After your guest has left and you’ve regained the children’s attention, start your presentation, beginning with a quick review on Days 3 and 4: “Remember what happened yesterday? The backpacker was stuck on the cliff, separated from God because of sin. Today we’re going to discover what will happen to him.”

## How

### Crossover Illustration

Thoroughly familiarize yourself with the Crossover illustration. Have clearly in mind each Illustration’s:

- caption, which summarizes the main point
- Scripture memory verse, being sure to study it in its context in the Bible



### Creating Costumes

#### Gospel Guide

- Cargo-style pants/shorts
- hiking hat & boots
- hiking waist pack
- hiking stick
- carabiner, water bottle, compass, etc. clipped to waist pack or belt loops

#### Great Grizzly

- rent/purchase a bear costume from costume supply store, or
- check with government agencies and university departments of forestry regarding availability of a bear costume to rent or borrow

#### Park Ranger Rob/Ruth

- khaki short-sleeved shirt with arm patch, and name & ranger badges
- dark pants/shorts
- park ranger hat
- boots



## Scriptural Support

To help you restate, emphasize, and explain more fully each day's message, Support Verses are listed in the sidebar for each Illustration. These verses will direct you to surrounding passages and often entire chapters relevant to your points. Consider the verses listed as well as those of your own choosing.



## LOOK ONLINE

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

- artistic details, developed to prompt and correspond to your message
- application, making your message specifically relevant to the children

## Visual Aid

The Crossover visual aid serves several purposes. It immediately focuses your audience's attention, guides the direction of your presentation as you point out the artistic significance of each Crossover Illustration, and serves as a memory prompt for you during the talk. This visual aid can be a Powerpoint slide or a poster. Resources for each are available on the portal.

Be sure to have any necessary equipment ready in your Base Camp for Crossover use during Setting Up or Breaking Camp each day and for the Summit Celebration (closing program). Quick and easy access to it will help you keep up the pace of your presentation.

## What

Use the outline and suggestions that follow to formulate your four daily messages. Concepts to cover are listed, with sample wording offered within quotation marks. Since there is great interconnection between the Illustrations, and because you are the one familiar with your audience, as well as the one God has specifically chosen to be His ambassador, we encourage you to compose your message in your own words, based on the content provided. Keep in mind, however, the importance of adhering to the content as well as incorporating explanations of the visual aid.

The vocabulary used below to outline each Illustration's content section will need to be translated in your delivery into terms understandable to the children, with *concrete, age-appropriate examples* given. For instance, explanations for the sins of commission and omission, to reach both 1st and 5th graders, respectively, might include: "Sometimes we sin by doing wrong things on purpose, like when we hurt someone's feelings or put someone down. Maybe we shove someone on the playground or push him around to look cool, or maybe steal their pencil or lunch money. And sometimes we sin by *not* doing something we should, like when we don't clean up our toys or do our homework before going outside to play, even though we know we're supposed to." Use your discretion concerning time, attention spans, and the inclusion of the lesser details mentioned. End each message with a leading comment or question to whet their appetites for the next day's Illustration. Finally, remember to pray, trust, and enjoy!





# DAY 2

## Introduction, Illustrations 1 & 2

### Introduction

#### opening

This first day of Crossover, take some time to:

- establish rapport with your Backpackers
- explain Crossover's two-fold purpose (see page 3)
- let the children know that you will be back with them each day to teach them about Crossover
- inform them that they will have the opportunity to learn Crossover themselves in their Outposts and at home

#### basic introduction

- *inerrancy and authority of Scripture*: Introduce the Bible as God's Word, completely true, trustworthy, and authoritative (II Timothy 3:16): "Can we know what's true and how God wants us to live? We sure can! Where do we learn that? That's right—in the Bible! Is there any part of the Bible we shouldn't believe or obey? It is *all* God's Word and instruction to us, isn't it? He knows what to say, because..."
- *God as Creator*: "...God made the world: the stars, planets, animals, and plants—all of nature. But best of all, God made you! People are the most important part of God's creation. And because He is our Creator, He is the One we are to worship and obey."

#### visual aid introduction

"These Crossover to Life pictures are going to help you understand something that is the most important thing you could ever know! Everything in these pictures represents something that is true about our lives. When you see this backpacker (point to visual aid), I want you to think of yourself. He is representing each one of us—you, me, your Guides, your families and friends, every person in this world."



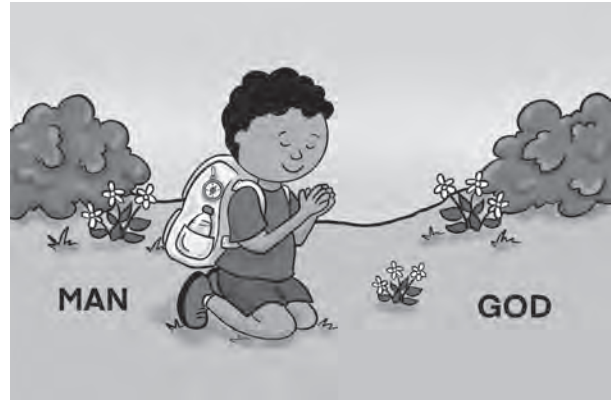
## Support Verses

Genesis 1 & 2

If you teach Crossover after the children have had their Bible lesson, refer to Gabriel's explanation of how creation went from perfection to brokenness (Bible Lesson Curriculum, Lesson One).

## Illustration 1

"... God made mankind upright..."  
— Ecclesiastes 7:29 (NIV)



**In the beginning, God made people happy and holy**

### creation

*creation as perfect, unspoiled beauty:* "When God first made the world, it was perfect! Not one thing was bad or scary or sad or ugly or painful. No war, no pollution, no drugs, no pushing or being mean on the playground.

### backpacker on knees (close to God)

*no separation between God and Man (note unbroken landscape):* "The first people were perfect, too. As Ecclesiastes 7:29 says, '...God made mankind upright...' Do you remember the names of the first people? Yes, Adam and Eve. They loved and worshiped God with their whole hearts, just like this backpacker. They were close to God. They talked and even took walks with Him!

### backpacker's gear

*equipped with everything necessary for life and godliness:* "What is this on the backpacker's back? Yes, he has a backpack and all the things a backpacker needs. God gave Adam and Eve *everything* they needed to live joyfully in the garden, loving and trusting God and each other completely, and worshiping and obeying God perfectly. They were holy, and they were very happy. As the caption says—'In the beginning, God made people happy and holy.'

### transition

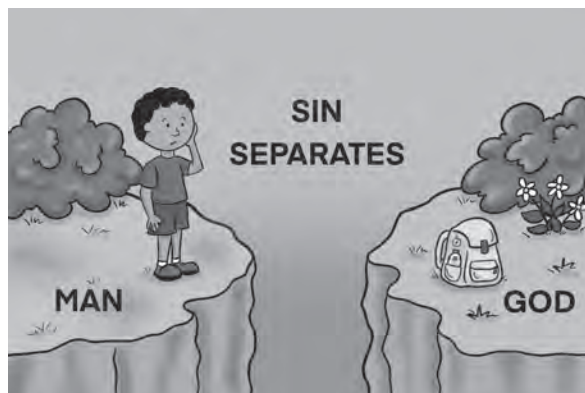
"But we know that we're not all happy and holy like this backpacker, and our world isn't perfect anymore, is it? Something terrible happened and now our world is full of problems. Let's find out how life became ruined."



## Illustration 2

“but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”

— Isaiah 59:2



### Our sin has separated us from God



#### Support Verses

- Genesis 3
- Psalm 53:1–3
- Romans 3:10–12
- II Thessalonians 1:8–9

### backpacker separated from God

- *two cliffs*: “Something’s very different in this picture today. Can you tell me what’s changed? (the backpacker is on one side, God and the backpacker’s equipment on the other, with a great ravine between) What’s separating the backpacker from God? (sin) Do you see how sad this backpacker is? Sin has created a huge gap between him and God.

And, children, the really sad thing is that you and I are just like this backpacker. Do you see what the caption says? ‘*Our sin has separated us from God.*’ That’s my sin, and your sin, and the sin of everyone in this world—we are *all* separated from God. The Bible tells us in Isaiah 59:2 ‘but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.’ Let’s see what the Bible says about how sin first entered the world.

- *brief account of the Fall (Genesis 3)*: “Let me tell you a little more about Adam and Eve. They were the first man and woman God created. They loved God and enjoyed the beautiful world He made. They were made to live forever in God’s perfect paradise, enjoying a loving relationship with God. But they chose to disobey God, and they did the one thing—the *only* thing—God told them not to do. He had commanded them not to eat fruit from a certain tree, and if they did, God said they would die. They disobeyed and what the Bible calls ‘sin’ came into the world. We call that ‘the fall of man.’ God’s evil enemy, Satan, lied to Adam and Eve to tempt them to disobey God. Satan hates God!
- *consequent fallen nature of all people*: “Because Adam and Eve sinned, every person born after them—except for one Person in all of history (Jesus, about whom we will learn this week)—is born a sinner. Every Backpacker here in our Base Camp, your Trail Guide, your Guides, myself—each one of us sins. *All* people are born with hearts that are turned away from God toward evil. We have what grownups call ‘a fallen nature.’ Do children need to be taught to grab toys or hit? Do two year olds need someone to teach them to whine and have a tantrum? Do you need lessons on how to be mean? No, these bad things

come naturally to us because we have fallen, sinful natures, even from birth. We disobey God and ignore His ways. Instead of being close to God, and happy and holy, our hearts are sinful and far from God.

- *gear on God's side:* "Do you see where the backpacker's gear is now? Because of sin we are no longer 'equipped' to make an Upward Bound journey; all the means of helping us live perfect, Upward Bound lives are on God's side—in God's hands. There is nothing we can do to restore our perfect relationship with God. There is no way to change our sinful natures, to attain a life of perfect love and obedience. We no longer have what it takes to please God and be in relationship with Him; we are unable to love and honor God as we were created to do.
- *define sin:* "What is this sin that separates us from God? Sin is the thing in us that makes us want to do wrong. We are born with Sin in our hearts which makes us want to disobey God and the commandments He has given us in His Word, the Bible. So sinning means disobeying God in our thoughts, words, and in what we do and don't do. And because we are sinners, we're not able to obey God and His commandments and we even rebel against them.

Sometimes we sin by doing something that we know is wrong. We hurt someone's feelings, or put someone down. We might push someone on the playground, or shove them around to look cool, or maybe steal their pencil or wallet. Sometimes we sin by not doing something we should, like when we don't clean up our toys or do our homework before going out to play, even though we know we're supposed to. What about bragging? Being selfish? Thinking hateful thoughts? Are these sins? You bet! Selfishness, pride, lying, etc., are all sins that we all commit in some way, and those sins are what have broken our relationship with God.

### **conclusion**

"Tomorrow we'll find out what happens as a result of our sin and disobedience toward God. But remember that there's Good News coming! Make sure you come back to hear the rest of the story!"

### **prayer**

## DAY 3

### Illustrations 3 & 4

#### Illustration 3

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

— *Ephesians 2:8–9*



**We are not able to get back to God**



#### Support Verses

- Psalm 40
- Psalm 49

#### backpacker reaching across gap

- *separation from God:* “In our sinful or fallen condition we are cut off from God. We can’t reach Him. It’s just as impossible for us to reach God in our own power as it is for this backpacker to reach across to the other side of the chasm. The distance is too far. Just as our caption says, ‘We are not able to get back to God.’
- *Good works cannot save us from our sin:* “There is nothing we can do to cross over to God’s side, to get back in perfect relationship with Him. No matter how hard we try, we can’t reach God’s side in our fallen condition; even our best human efforts are insufficient to breach the gap caused by sin. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:8–9 “For by *grace* you have been saved through *faith*. And this is not your own doing; it is the *gift* of God,<sup>9</sup> not a *result of works*, so that no one may boast.” Examples of good works are being “good,” helping others, attending church, coming to Upward Bound, etc. “These things are good and right, but they cannot undo the sins we have done. They cannot bridge the gap between us and God. There is nothing we can ever do to save ourselves from our sin.”

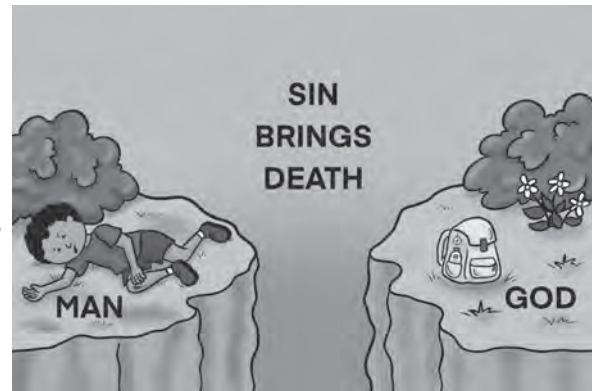


### Support Verses

- Romans 6:23a
- Proverbs 14:12
- Hebrews 9:27
- II Thessalonians 1:8–9

## Illustration 4

“...death spread to all men,  
because all sinned.”  
— Romans 5:12



### Our sin brings death and judgment to us

#### backpacker fallen (spiritual death)

- *sin brings death:* In our sinful or fallen condition we are dead spiritually. “The Bible says in Romans 5:12, ‘...death spread to all men, because all sinned.’ We can’t see, hear, or respond to God—just like a physically dead person can’t see, hear, or respond to life; sin makes us deaf, blind, and dead to God. As the caption says, ‘Our sin brings death and judgment to us.’
- *God’s holiness and judgment:* “God is not only loving, He is holy. God hates evil and wicked things. God can’t say, ‘Sin is okay. I’ll ignore it.’ Like an earthly judge who can’t just let criminals go free but must make them pay for their crimes, God must punish the guilty.
- *sin leads to death and hell:* “In the end, sin leads people to hell. Hell is a real place, and it is more horrible than I can tell you. There is nothing good there, only terrible and evil things. You would never want to be in hell; it is very scary, and once a person gets there he can never get out.” Hell is where those who defy God and cling to their sin will experience His wrath (anger).
- *Satan:* Briefly mention Satan’s reality. “Hell is where Satan wants us to go. Satan is real. He is the devil, and he hates God and God’s people. Satan once was an angel who rebelled against God; now he is doing everything in his power to turn everyone else against God, too. Satan was the one who tricked Adam and Eve, so that now everyone is born automatically separated from God.
- *closing transitional comment:* “It seems impossible for man to be saved, but with God there is hope! Backpackers, are you learning at Upward Bound that God is a loving God? Do you think He wants the backpacker in our picture to die? Did you know God is much, much stronger than Satan, and God doesn’t want people to be on Satan’s side and go to hell. God wants people to be in close relationship to Him, to trust in Him and have His love. And when they die, they can be forever with Him in Heaven. So, do you think God might have a plan to rescue the backpacker? He sure does! Come tomorrow and find out what it is!”

#### prayer

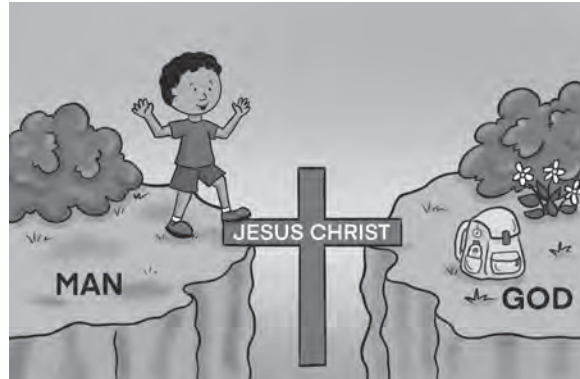
# DAY 4

## Illustrations 5 & 6

### Illustration 5

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

— John 14:6



**God has made a way back to Him for us**



### Support Verses

- 1 Peter 3:18
- 1 Timothy 2:5–6
- Psalm 49:15
- Psalm 65:3
- Isaiah 53

### cross of Jesus Christ bridges gap

- *God's mercy:* Explain God's love for His people, His desire that none should perish. "Because of His great love and mercy, 'God made a way back to Him for us.'"
- *incarnation of Christ:* "Jesus Christ, God's Son, came down from the perfect, happy Courts of Heaven to become a human—the little baby Jesus born in a manger on Christmas. He made His 'Upward Bound journey' and lived a perfect, sinless life of obedience and love. Then Jesus died on the cross to save anyone, including you Backpackers at Upward Bound, who believes in Him." Try to paint a picture of how great a sacrifice Christ made for us in undertaking His Upward Bound journey: leaving Heaven's eternal bliss, never giving in to temptation during His earthly life—even when He was a child the Backpackers' ages; accepting the agony of receiving God's full wrath.
- *the Atonement:* Salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone, whose substitutionary, once-for-all atonement on the cross and bodily Resurrection from the grave provide victory over death and sin for all who believe in Him. "Jesus came down from Heaven in order to do for us what we could not do for ourselves. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life and then took our punishment for sin when He died on the cross. We deserve death and judgment in hell, but Jesus came and died in our place. He loves us so much that He was willing to suffer in our place. He alone was able to bridge the chasm between us and God. In John 14:6, Jesus says, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' Jesus is the *only* way we can get back to God."



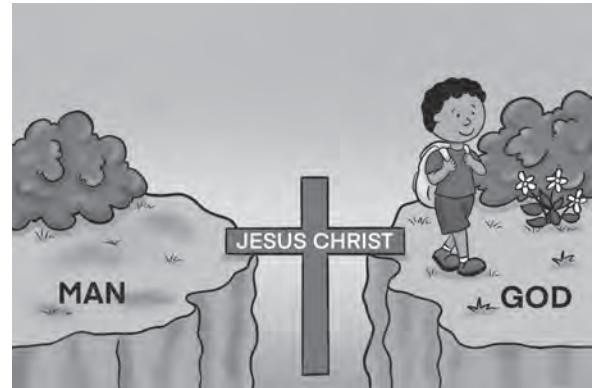
### Support Verses

- John 3:16, 36
- John 6:47
- Acts 16:31

- *backpacker is given all His gear:* God in His mercy and grace gives us everything necessary for our salvation and eternal life: regeneration, repentance, belief—God causes our hearts to repent and believe in Jesus Christ alone to save us and bring us back to God. Believing in Jesus involves repentance—turning from our sin to godly ways, acknowledging our tremendous sinfulness, asking God to forgive us and turn us from our old way of living to His ways; being dependent on God’s Spirit at work within us.

## Illustration 6

“...whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.  
— John 5:24 (NIV)



**We cross over from death to life by believing  
and trusting in Jesus Christ**

### backpacker crosses over to God’s side

- *faith:* We are saved by faith. By means of God-given faith in Jesus Christ and His substitutionary atonement on the cross, fallen people are able to come close to God again in a renewed relationship. Explain what faith is, relating it to the Upward Bound focus of truly believing in our hearts that Jesus did come from Heaven and is God Himself; that He did live a sinless life and die in our place; that we can reach the Summit (Heaven) and live with Him forever after we die if we repent of our sin and believe.
- *review works:* Give examples of ineffectual-for-salvation good works: being “good,” helping others, attending church or Upward Bound, etc. “Remember from Illustration 3, these things are good and right, but they cannot make us good enough. They can’t undo the sins we have done. They can’t turn us into perfect people who never sin. We cannot save ourselves from our sin and make ourselves holy before God. Only God can change us, and because He loves us and is merciful, we can be saved.
- *assurance of salvation:* “When we have faith, that is, really believe in our hearts that Jesus died for us, God forgives us and we receive His free gift of eternal life. John 5:24 says, ‘...whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.’ We are adopted, with God as our loving Heavenly Father, never to be ‘unadopt-



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ed.' We join God's family forever. Although our earthly parents may sin, God never will; He always does what is loving and best." Explain that we cross from death to life, once for all, and that salvation is irrevocable.

- *indwelling of Holy Spirit/sanctification*: Believers receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who is always with us to guide, teach, empower, comfort, and pray. Emphasize our dependence on God's power at work within us, perhaps using the vine and branches parable of John 15. "God sends His own Holy Spirit into our hearts. The Spirit teaches, guides, comforts, and empowers us to live God's way. He is God Himself, actually living in us all the time!"
- *joy of salvation*: Portray our deep joy in knowing God's great, unchanging, unconditional forgiveness which casts our sins into the depths of the sea and remembers them no more. Jesus is our all-sufficient Savior, providing our security, peace, direction, hope, and purpose.
- *new creation*: We identify with Christ now, as new creations in Him. Our old ways are behind us. Explain that our hearts are made new, our old nature was crucified with Christ, and our lives are being transformed through the lifelong process of sanctification. Stress the daily need of confession, repentance, and forgiveness. We have a new identity as God's people, Christians.
- *spiritual nourishment*: God's means of nurturing us spiritually include the Bible (refer to the backpacker's food for the journey), prayer (our backpack), the indwelling Holy Spirit (our canteen), worship and instruction, fellowship with other believers, sacraments, acts of service and mercy, Christian music and literature.
- *faith and prayer*: "As we are saved by faith in Jesus, so we walk by faith, asking Him in prayer every moment of every day to help us live in fellowship with Him." Explain and emphasize the utter necessity, comfort, joy, and privilege of prayer, of listening and talking to God continually...
- *the Summit—Heaven*: ". And when we die on earth, God's children go to the most wonderful, awesome place, which is more beautiful and exciting than you can ever imagine! It's Jesus' heavenly home, a wonderful place called Heaven. (You can meet Mary and Joseph and Mary Magdalene when you get there!)" Explain Heaven's perfection—no tears, fears, etc. "Jesus, the God-Man, is now in Heaven, praying for us as we make our Upward Bound journey! One day, He will return and make everything new, and we will live with Him and all of His people forever in the new heavens and new earth!"

## **prayer**



# DAY 5

## Review and Conclusion

### Review and Conclusion

#### **review**

Review all 6 Illustrations of Crossover, using the visual aid and highlighting key points.

#### **conclusion**

- *Encourage personal response to the Gospel:* Encourage those who have not yet believed in Jesus to trust in Him, praying with them and asking them to talk with yourself or a Guide once your presentation is over. Ask your Director which Guides and/or Upward Bound counselors have been assigned to be available to these children, and work closely with the counselors to determine a plan for immediate follow-up during and after Upward Bound.
- *Discuss the Christian life:* “There are many great blessings, joys, and challenges in the life of each Christian ‘backpacker.’ There are also many obstacles each one of us will face as we continue our lifelong Upward Bound journey. Trials and temptation will come, and sometimes we will know suffering, just like Jesus did. But God has given us His Holy Spirit to live in us, and give us all we need to finish the journey. Though our enemy Satan will try to keep us from obeying and trusting God, God will help us stay on the path of faith every Illustration of the way, until we reach the Summit where we will be with Jesus forever!”
- *Challenge the children to share the Gospel:* “And while we’re on the way, God wants us to tell others the Good News of what Jesus Christ has done.” Explain the Great Commission, that if we belong to Christ, we are missionaries (“That includes you Upward Bound Backpackers”), commanded to actively take the Gospel into the world as God’s ambassadors, witnessing wherever we are—home, school, community, abroad—whatever our age.

#### **prayer**