



START *the* PARTY

Celebrate the Good News

CRAFTS

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Matthew's Party
Luke 5:27-32

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Jesus is a good reason
to have a party.**

KEY QUESTION

**What is your favorite
type of party?**

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
with joy when I am with you."**

Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

1. CUPCAKE LINER ICE CREAM CONES

WHAT YOU NEED: Colorful cupcake liners, light brown construction paper or craft paper, white cardstock, kid-safe scissors, brown markers, glue sticks, and sequins (or a single hole punch and various colored paper)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ahead of time, use a paper cutter to cut the brown paper in half. You'll need one half sheet per child. You may also use a single hole punch to punch circles out of different colored paper instead of using sequins.
- Give each kid a piece of white cardstock, a half sheet of brown paper, and two cupcake liners.
- Set the sequins or paper circles, kid-safe scissors, and glue sticks in the center of the table.
- Instruct kids to cut a long thin triangle out of the brown half sheet to create a cone, then use the marker to draw hash marks along the cone to add texture.
- Lead kids to glue their cone at an angle on the white cardstock, leaving enough room to add the scoops.
- Ask kids to select two colored cupcake liners, lay them out flat on the table, and then glue them onto the cone to create a double scoop.
- Encourage kids to glue paper circles or sequins to each scoop as sprinkles.
- If time remains, kids can use the markers to color the background around the ice cream cone.
- Instruct kids to write their names on their papers and set in a designated spot for pick up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! All week long, we're learning to start the party and celebrate the good news! Jesus loves us, and He wants to have a relationship with us. Matthew couldn't believe that Jesus would choose to be his friend, and he certainly didn't expect to be accepted after so many wrong choices. But Jesus loved Matthew, and that changed Matthew's whole life! He threw a party to celebrate. When you look at these creative cones, remember that you are loved and that **Jesus is a good reason to have a party.**"

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about how you felt when you first heard the good news about Jesus and His love for you. Who told you about Jesus? How did it make you feel to know He accepted you and loved you?)

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2. CUPCAKE COLLAGE

WHAT YOU NEED: Construction paper; kid-safe scissors; glue sticks; white school glue (if using buttons); white cardstock or art paper; and sequins, buttons, or confetti (paper punch circles)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Before kids arrive, use a paper cutter to cut various colors of construction paper in half. Kids will need two half sheets in contrasting colors.
- Set all the half sheets of construction paper, glue, scissors, and embellishment items in the center of the table. Place a piece of white cardstock or art paper at each spot at the table.
- Let kids choose two half sheets of paper in contrasting colors. Instruct the kids to cut out an elongated rectangle where the top is wider than the bottom. This rectangle will become the cupcake liner.
- Tell kids to take another half sheet and cut out a half moon shape. This will be the top of the cupcake.
- Guide kids to fold the bottom rectangle accordion style to give the cupcake liner more texture, then glue it to the bottom of the white paper.
- Once the liner is in place, tell kids to glue their cupcake top to the page.
 - *Note: They may need to trim the sides to fit their cupcake liner.*
- Allow kids to add sprinkles to their cupcakes with the glue sticks. If adding buttons for sprinkles, use white school glue.
- If they have time, kids can use the markers to draw in lines on the folds of the cupcake liner, color in more sprinkles on the top of the cupcake, or color the background.
- Instruct kids to write their names on their papers and set aside in your designated spot for pick up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These cupcakes look good enough to eat! You can't have a party without cake, right? When Matthew met Jesus, he was SO surprised that Jesus would want to spend time with him. Matthew knew he'd made mistakes, but that didn't stop Jesus from choosing Matthew. Doesn't it feel good to be loved and accepted? Matthew was so happy he threw a party and invited all his friends to meet Jesus too. **Jesus is a good reason to have a party.**"

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3. LAYERS OF FUN CAKE COLLAGE

WHAT YOU NEED: White cardstock or art paper, construction paper in various colors, kid-safe scissors, glue sticks, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place a piece of white paper at each spot at the table. Set the construction paper, scissors, glue, and markers in the center of the table.
- Encourage kids to create a layer cake with contrasting colors of paper. Tell them to cut out a flat circle to serve as the cake plate and glue to the bottom of the page.
- Guide kids to cut out at least six layers to create the cake. Show them how to cut rectangles with wavy lines on one side to mimic icing spilling over the sides. Make sure the layers are cut smaller than the cake plate.
- Instruct kids to stack the layers on their cake plate and glue in place.
- Once the layers are glued down, encourage kids to use the markers to decorate each layer however they choose.
- If they finish their layers, kids can cut out candles to glue to the top (don't forget to add a yellow flame!), use markers to add flowers or other decorations to the top, or color the paper around the cake itself.
- Instruct kids to write their names on their papers and set aside in your designated spot for pick up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Yummy! Raise your hand if you love cake. (*Raise your hand.*) Me too! My favorite kind of cake is (*answer*). I doubt Matthew had cakes like these at his party, but I'm certain there was some yummy food to eat! But the best part about the party Matthew threw was the guest of honor. Matthew knew that **Jesus is a good reason to have a party**. He was SO happy that Jesus chose to love and accept him. So, when Jesus asked Matthew to follow Him, that's what Matthew did! He threw a big party to celebrate so all his friends could meet Jesus too."

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4. MAKE YOUR OWN ABACUS

WHAT YOU NEED: Craft sticks, four-inch bamboo skewers, pony beads, small bowls, wood glue, and pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- At each spot at the table, place six craft sticks and eight bamboo skewers on a paper plate. Place extra craft sticks in the center of the table.
- Set several bowls of pony beads on the table, within reach of each child. Set the wood glue nearby.
- Guide kids to lay three craft sticks on the table parallel to each other. Use the pencil to draw eight matching lines across all three sticks, evenly spaced down the length of the craft sticks.
- Separate the three popsicle sticks.
- Instruct kids to align the top of their bamboo skewers along the pencil hash marks on the top craft stick and glue into place.
- Show kids how to thread two pony beads onto each skewer. Add a line of glue to each hash mark on the second craft stick and glue bamboo skewer into place, about an inch and a half from the top stick.
- Guide kids to thread five pony beads onto each skewer, carefully pushing them toward the middle craft stick.
- Tell kids to add a line of glue along the hash marks of the third craft stick and glue to the bottom of the skewers. Then glue three more craft sticks on top of the bamboo skewers making sure they line up with the craft sticks below. Be sure to keep the beads divided.
- If time allows, pass out three more craft sticks for kids to glue on top of the last three to provide more stability and make it easier to slide the beads once it's dry.
- Have kids write their names on their projects and set aside in designated spot for pick up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What was Matthew doing when he met Jesus? He was working at his tax collector booth, counting and keeping a record of the tax money. This abacus you just made is used for counting and calculating, too. Tax collectors weren't popular or well liked because they often took more money than was owed, pocketing the extra for themselves. But Jesus didn't let Matthew's reputation or the choices he'd made in the past stop him from accepting Matthew. Jesus offered forgiveness and said, 'Follow me.' And Matthew did. But first, he threw a big party at his home, inviting other tax collectors to come and meet Jesus. Matthew recognized that Jesus was special and **Jesus is a good reason to have a party.**"

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5. PUFFY / FLUFFY ICE CREAM (STEAM OPTION)

WHAT YOU NEED: White art paper or cardstock, markers, shaving cream, white school glue, food coloring, paint brushes, and disposable bowls

WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage kids to use their markers to draw a bowl or ice cream cone on the cardstock or art paper. Tell them NOT to add the ice cream yet!
- Lead kids to add equal parts shaving cream and white school glue to the bowl and mix together with the paint brush to create puff paint. With help from an older child, add a few drops of food coloring to the bowl and stir to combine.
- Instruct kids to use the paintbrush to apply the puff paint to the cardstock to create the ice cream. For younger kids, encourage them to use a pencil to draw in the outline for the ice cream first so they know where to paint.
 - *TIP: The thicker you layer on the puff paint, the better your ice cream will turn out.*
- Tell kids to use markers to draw dots or small squiggly lines on the page around the ice cream (not ON it) to look like confetti falling in the background.
- Instruct kids to write their names on the bottom of the page and set aside in the designated area to dry until pick up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Your ice cream is literally coming off the page! Why did Matthew invite all his friends over to his house? Because **Jesus is a good reason to have a party!** Jesus found Matthew at his tax collector booth, knowing about the wrong choices he had made in the past, and still asked Matthew to follow Him. Jesus loved and accepted Matthew, and He loves and accepts us too!"

TRAVEL TIME

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

- What's the best party you've ever been to?
- What's your favorite party food?
- Do you think Jesus was fun to be around at parties? Why or why not?

GETTING READY

PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME FOR CRAFTS ROTATION FOR VBS

1. CUPCAKE LINER ICE CREAM CONES (K-1)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Solid colored cupcake liners; two for each kid
- Brown craft or construction paper; half page for each kid
- White cardstock or art paper; one page for each kid
- Kid-safe scissors
- Brown markers
- Glue sticks
- Sequins or a single hole punch and various pieces of colored paper

- Shaving cream
- White school glue
- Food coloring
- Paint brushes
- Disposable bowls

2. CUPCAKE COLLAGE (2-3)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Construction paper in various colors
- Kid-safe scissors
- Glue sticks
- White cardstock or art paper; one piece for each kid
- Sequins, paper punches, or buttons to use as sprinkles
- White school glue if providing buttons

3. LAYERS OF FUN CAKE COLLAGE (4-5)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- White cardstock or art paper; one piece for each kid
- Construction paper in various colors
- Kid-safe scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers

4. MAKE YOUR OWN ABACUS (K-5 STARTER)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Craft sticks, six or nine for each kid
- Four-inch bamboo skewers; eight for each kid
- Pony beads; 56 for each kid
- Wood glue
- Pencils

5. PUFFY/ FLUFFY ICE CREAM (STEAM OPTION)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- White art paper or cardstock; one piece for each kid
- Markers

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Parable of
the Wedding Feast
Matthew 22:1-14

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Everyone is invited to the party.

KEY QUESTION

How does it feel to be invited?

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
with joy when I am with you."**
Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.

1. EVERYONE'S INVITED TRI-FOLD INVITATION

WHAT YOU NEED: Colored copy paper, "K-1 Day 2 Bottom Line Printable" Activity Page, kid-safe scissors, stickers, glue sticks, markers, and washi tape;
Optional: craft scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Print the "K-1 Day 2 Bottom Line Printable" and cut apart. Provide one per kid. If you have first graders, you may choose to forgo this and have them write out the Bottom Line themselves. If you go this route, offer one third page of white copy paper per kid.
- Instruct your Small Group Leaders to stack the colored copy paper for their group and quickly fold in thirds as if folding a letter to mail.
- Give each kid a folded piece of copy paper and a "Day 2 Bottom Line Printable."
- Encourage kids to use the scissors to make cuts along the sides or corners of the printable half sheet page to add interest. They can cut off the corners, cut along the sides in a wavy pattern, make the half page an oval, etc. The point is to let them have fun practicing their cutting while keeping the words in the center.
 - *Optional: If using craft scissors, allow kids to use those to cut out an interesting border around the words.*
- When kids finish cutting, encourage them to glue the Bottom Line paper onto the center section of the trifold copy paper.
- Let kids use the markers to decorate the page. They can make dots or short wavy lines in different colors as confetti, color in a fun border in several colors, draw small open circles, create zigzag lines, etc.
- Show kids how to fold the page and "seal" their invitation with a small piece of washi tape or a fun sticker.
- Tell kids to flip over the folded invitation to create the "address" side. Instruct them to draw a small square in the top right-hand corner and add a fun sticker as their stamp. Then draw in three lines for the address.
- If they have time left, kids can decorate the outside of the envelope with markers or stickers.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These invitations look great! The king in the story Jesus told invited EVERYONE to his wedding feast to celebrate. How does it feel to be included in the game or invited to the party? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes, it feels great. No one wants to be left out! Jesus told this story so we'd understand that everyone is invited to follow Him. No one is left out or excluded. Can you think of someone who needs to know about Jesus and His love for them? Think about that friend this week, and look for ways you can talk about Jesus and what a good friend He is! Remember, **everyone is invited to the party.**"

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BASIC TRUTH

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I want to be treated.**

2. YOU'RE INVITED ENVELOPES

WHAT YOU NEED: "2-3 Envelope Template" and "2-3 Day 2 Bottom Line Cards" Activity Pages, colored copy paper, markers, pencils, kid-safe scissors, glue sticks, markers, stickers, and washi tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy the "2-3 Envelope Template" onto colored paper. Print the "2-3 Day 2 Bottom Line Cards" onto colored copy paper and cut apart. Provide one of each for each kid.
- Place an envelope page and a Bottom Line card at each spot at the table.
- Instruct kids to cut out their envelope templates (cut on outside lines only).
- Show kids how to fold the small side tabs in.
- Guide them to add a small amount of glue on each tab, fold the largest end up, and press down onto the tabs with glue. Set envelope aside to dry.
- Encourage kids to glue their Bottom Line card to a contrasting color of paper, a bit larger than the card.
- Let kids decorate their card by adding "confetti" (dots) with markers to the corners in two or three colors.
- Show kids how to place the card inside the envelope, fold it closed, and seal it with a small piece of washi tape.
- Tell kids to flip over the folded invitation to create the "address" side. Instruct them to draw a small square in the top right-hand corner and add a fun sticker as their stamp. Then draw in three lines for the address.
- If they have time left, kids can decorate the outside of the envelope with markers or stickers.
- Instruct kids to write their names on the back of the envelope and set aside in a designated area for pick up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Friends, your envelopes look great! We heard a story Jesus told about a king who threw a big wedding feast. He sent out his helpers to invite people to the party, but the first two groups wouldn't come. So what did the king do? He sent out his helpers to invite everyone they could find so they could celebrate! Jesus told this story to remind us that **everyone is invited to the party** because everyone can follow Jesus. Is there someone you know who needs to hear about Jesus? Who could you tell? Who could you invite to come with you to church or VBS?"

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BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.

3. INTERLOCKING PARTY ENVELOPE

WHAT YOU NEED: "4-5 Interlocking Envelope" Activity Page; kid-safe scissors; colored paper; markers, crayons, or colored pencils; and stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Print the "4-5 Interlocking Envelope" Activity Page. Provide one for each kid.
- Place an Activity Page at each spot at the table, along with a couple of pieces of colored paper.
- Guide kids to cut out the envelope, cutting solid lines only.
- Tell kids to cut a square from the colored paper, small enough to fit inside the center square of the envelope. Instruct them to use a marker to write **"Everyone is invited to the party!"** in the center of the paper square.
- Encourage kids to trim a small bit off the sides and glue it to another square to create some dimension. Then guide them to glue it inside the envelope.
- Let kids use markers, crayons, or colored pencils to add dots of confetti or swirls and squiggles to decorate the message card.
- Tell kids to flip their template over to the blank side. Let them decorate the four side sections creating different patterns and colors with the writing tools provided. Also, encourage them to decorate the little tabs that stick out from the sides. Decorating these tabs will help them when they interlock the tabs.
- In the open space in the center, guide them to draw in a square at the top right for a "stamp" and three lines for the address. Kids can add a sticker as their stamp inside the square. If time allows, they can use markers or crayons to add a design or pattern on the front.
- Instruct kids to flip their envelope over so they see the message side. Staring at the bottom, have the kids fold the flap to the center. Then, rotate and fold the next flap to the center, tucking the tab underneath the previous tab. Repeat with the third side.
- Show them how to rotate to the final side, fold the flap up, and tuck the right side of the flap itself under so that it's secure and looks like a wrapped gift.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Look at these interlocking envelopes! But the best part is the message inside. It says, **'Everyone is invited to the party!'** Just like the king who made sure everyone was invited to celebrate the wedding feast, we are ALL invited to follow Jesus. Jesus loves us, and He came for everyone!"

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about a time you were included, and it made you feel loved. How does it feel to know that Jesus loves YOU and everyone around you? Tell the kids about why you signed up to serve this week—because you wanted to make sure every kid knows that they're invited to follow Jesus, who loves them so.)

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4. BALLOON BRACELETS

WHAT YOU NEED: Long skinny balloons, elastic stretch cord, tape, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ahead of time, cut the balloons into two-inch pieces. Discard the two ends of each balloon. Precut a piece of elastic cord for each child, roughly 8-10 inches.
- At each spot at the table, tape down one end of elastic cord, leaving the other end free for threading the balloons. Repeat so there are two elastic cords at each spot at the table (one bracelet to keep and one to share).
- Set the balloon pieces in the center of the table.
- Show kids how to thread a balloon piece onto the elastic cord and push all the way to the top.
- Kids should continue adding balloon pieces, in any colors they choose. Once they have a few threaded onto the cord, encourage the kids to push until they are bunched up.
- Once the elastic cord is full, encourage older kids to help younger kids tie the ends into a knot to create a bracelet for wearing.
- When they finish, encourage them to create a second bracelet for a friend.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These bracelets are SO fun! Now you have one to keep and one to share. Jesus told a story about a king who threw a wedding feast. Who did the king invite? Everyone! Jesus told this story because He wanted us to know that [Bottom Line] **everyone is invited to the party.** You're all invited—your family, your friends, the people in your neighborhood, on your ball teams, in your dance class, everyone! I want you think of someone you could share a bracelet with, and when you do, tell them about how much Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend too."

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5. WHO CAN FIT? (STEAM OPTIONS)

WHAT YOU NEED: Copy paper and kid-safe scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set the copy paper and scissors on the table.
- ASK: "Is it possible to cut this paper so you can fit through it?"
- Give the kids a chance to cut a piece of paper and try.
- Once they've attempted to do this on their own, have them grab a new piece of paper and fold it in half, hot dog style.
- Starting on one end, instruct the kids to cut a slit in the paper, starting their scissors at the folded edge until they almost reach the opposite edge.
- Show them how to alternate cuts along the paper, cutting slits from the folded edge, then the unfolded edge all the way down the page.
- Make sure the kids make the LAST cut from the folded edge.
- Lay the paper on the table and look at the folded side to see a series of loops. Cut along the fold of each of the loops EXCEPT the first and last loop. Leave these two loops intact.
- Carefully open up the paper to reveal one big circle. Let kids help each other hold open their circles to step through them.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Who would have thought we could make a way for everyone to walk through one single sheet of paper? When it comes to following Jesus, it's good to know that everyone is included. Just like the king who invited everyone to his celebration, we can start the party and celebrate because **everyone is invited to the party.**"

TRAVEL TIME

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

- When have you been invited to a super fun event or party? What was the event?
- Why do you think Jesus told this story?
- Why do you think it's important that everyone is invited to follow Jesus?

GETTING READY

PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME FOR CRAFTS ROTATION FOR VBS

1. EVERYONE'S INVITED TRI-FOLD INVITATION (K-1)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "K-1 Day 2 Bottom Line Printable" Activity Page and cut apart; one for each kid
 - *Optional: If you have only first graders, you can provide white copy paper instead of the Activity Page. Cut each sheet into thirds. Provide one third of a page for each kid.*
- Colored copy paper; one piece for each kid
- Kid-safe scissors
- Glue sticks
- Fun party themed stickers
- Markers
- *Optional: Craft scissors*

2. YOU'RE INVITED ENVELOPES (2-3)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "2-3 Envelope Template" Activity Page on copy paper; one for each kid
- Print the "2-3 Day 2 Bottom Line Cards" Activity Page on colored copy paper and cut apart; one for each kid
- Colored copy paper
- Markers
- Pencils
- Kid-safe scissors
- Washi tape
- Stickers

3. INTERLOCKING PARTY ENVELOPE (4-5)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "4-5 Interlocking Envelope" Activity Page copied on copy paper; one for each kid
- Kid-safe scissors
- Colored paper
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Stickers

4. BALLOON BRACELETS (K-5 STARTER)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Long skinny balloons (like you use for making balloon animals); two or three for each kid
- Scissors

- Elastic cord; 20 inches for each kid
- Tape

5. WHO CAN FIT? (STEAM OPTION)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Copy paper; one piece for each kid
- Kid-safe scissors

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Parable of
the Lost Son
Luke 15:11-32

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate the good news.

KEY QUESTION

What's the best news
you've ever heard?

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
with joy when I am with you."**

Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

1. PARTY PAPER FLAG

WHAT YOU NEED: Colored paper, kid-safe scissors, ¼-inch dowels, glue sticks, pencils, markers, and ribbon

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ahead of time, cut all your colored paper in half, hamburger style. Offer paper in at least three different colors. Cut ribbon into two-foot lengths. Provide two for each kid.
- Place all the half sheets of paper, dowels, glue sticks, and scissors on the table.
- Ask kids to select a piece of paper and lay it on the table with the short side at the top.
- Tell kids to draw a triangle at the top and cut out that triangle.
- Show kids how to turn the half sheet so the cutout triangle is facing to the right. Place glue on the straight side of the paper, lay the dowel on the page and fold over the edge. Encourage the kids to hold this down for several seconds.
 - *Pro Tip: Encourage kids to sing "Happy Birthday" or say their ABCs as they hold it down to give the glue time to stick.*
- Instruct kids to use the extra paper in contrasting colors to cut wiggly stripes and glue to the flag. Encourage them to be creative, adding as many wavy stripes as they choose. They can add wavy stripes to the triangle section too. They'll just need to use their scissors to trim it around the triangle.
- If time allows, they can flip the flag over and add stripes to the back. Also, make sure they write their names on the back of their flags.
- To add ribbon, help kids tie it in a knot around the dowel, just below the flag.
- If kids finish early, they can use markers to color their sticks.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Jesus told a story about a father and two sons. What did the father do when his younger son returned home? (*Pause.*) He celebrated! The father was SO happy his son had returned. What did the older brother do? (*Pause.*) He was angry and refused to come to the party. The father in the story Jesus told is like our heavenly Father. He is always ready to forgive us. He sent Jesus to make a way for us to have a relationship with Him forever! Everyone wave your flags with me and say, **'Celebrate the good news!'**"

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I can trust God no matter what.

2. RIBBON JINGLE WAND

WHAT YOU NEED: ¼-inch dowels, jingle bells, pipe cleaners, scissors, gift ribbon, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Precut the ribbon into two-foot lengths. Provide four pieces for each kid.
- Place a pipe cleaner, two jingle bells, a dowel and four pieces of ribbon at each spot at the table.
- Show kids how to thread the jingle bells onto the center of the pipe cleaner.
- Lead kids to tie a piece of ribbon on the pipe cleaner on either end of the jingle bells.
- Instruct kids to line up the pipe cleaner to the dowel and twist the top end of the pipe cleaner as tight as they can onto the dowel. Repeat in the same way with the bottom of the pipe cleaner.
- Kids can use the scissors to curl the ends of the ribbon.
- Finally, let the kids use markers to create patterns of color along the dowel.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Everyone, shake your jingle wands and say, '**Celebrate the good news!**' Yay! We SHOULD celebrate because Jesus came to make a way for us to have a relationship with God forever. Just like the father in today's Bible story celebrated when his son returned home, we can celebrate what Jesus has done for us! He died on the cross so that we could be forgiven. When we put our trust in Jesus, we can have a relationship with Him now and forever, and that is good news for sure!"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Jesus' Parable of
the Lost Son**
Luke 15:11-32

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate the good news.

KEY QUESTION

**What's the best news
you've ever heard?**

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
with joy when I am with you."**
Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

3. CELEBRATION PINWHEEL

WHAT YOU NEED: "Pinwheel Template" Activity Page, cardstock, unsharpened pencils with erasers, small pencil-top erasers, push pins, clear tape, kid-safe scissors, markers, and washi tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Print the "Pinwheel Template" Activity Page on copy paper. Provide one for each kid.
- Place an Activity Page, a pencil, and a pencil-top eraser at each spot at the table. Give the push pins for each small group to their Small Group Leaders to hold until kids are ready for them.
- Guide kids to cut out the square from the "Pinwheel Template" and then cut the dotted lines, being careful to STOP where the dotted line ends.
- Tell them to flip over to the back side and add different patterns and colors to each triangle section with the markers.
- Instruct kids to flip it back over to the side with the dot in the center. Kids will fold the LEFT corner to the center and secure with tape. Rotate to the right, fold up the LEFT corner again and tape to secure. Repeat with remaining corners.
- Give each child a push pin, and help them push it through the center of the tape to the back.
- Instruct kids to place the small erasers over the existing eraser on the top of each pencil (adding another eraser protects your fingers!). Then press the push pin into the erasers.
- Tell kids to use their fingers to curve out the four folds so the pinwheel catches air and spins more easily.
- Encourage kids to wrap pieces of washi tape all along the pencil to add interest.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Pinwheels make me smile and remind me of a party! The father in the story Jesus told threw a BIG party for his son. He'd gone far away from home, made some unwise choices, and wasn't sure how his father would react when he returned. What did the father do? Was he angry and upset? *(Pause.)* No way! The father was SO happy he threw a big party to celebrate. His son was lost and now he was found. God is like the father in that story. He is waiting with open arms, ready to forgive us. He sent Jesus, His only Son, to make a way for us to have a relationship with God forever. And that is definitely why we should **celebrate the good news!**"

[Make It Personal] (Share with your kids about how you first heard the good news about Jesus. Who told you? How did you respond? How do you celebrate the good news about Jesus now?)

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**Jesus' Parable of
the Lost Son**
Luke 15:11-32

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate the good news.

KEY QUESTION

**What's the best news
you've ever heard?**

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
with joy when I am with you."**
Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

4. CELEBRATION WINDSOCK

WHAT YOU NEED: 12x18 white construction paper, crepe paper in various colors, kid-safe scissors, markers or crayons, clear tape, and ribbon

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set a piece of construction paper at each spot at the table with the crayons or markers nearby.
- Encourage kids to decorate their construction paper in a party theme. They can make confetti dots, swirls, draw geometric shapes like triangles and squares, etc.
- Tell kids to flip their page over to the back and tape the streamers along the bottom of the page with the clear tape.
- Show them how to roll the paper into a cylinder with the decorated side facing out and secure the seam with tape. Older kids may need to help younger kids with this.
- Guide kids to tape a ribbon to the inside top of the windsock to use as a handle.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Your windsocks look great! You can wave these around and celebrate as you watch the wind catch the streamers. As followers of Jesus, we have SO much to celebrate! God sent Jesus to make a way for us to have a relationship with Him. Like the father in the story Jesus told, God loves us and is ready to forgive us. That's GOOD news worth celebrating! Remember, we can **celebrate the good news!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus' Parable of
the Lost Son
Luke 15:11-32

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Celebrate the good news.

KEY QUESTION

What's the best news
you've ever heard?

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
with joy when I am with you."**

Acts 2:28, NIRV

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

5. PARTY BLOWERS (STEAM OPTION)

WHAT YOU NEED: Scrapbook paper strips, kid-safe scissors, straws, rubber bands, clear tape, and washi tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place a scrapbook paper strip, a straw, and a rubber band at each spot at the table. Set the scissors and tape in the center for kids to share.
- Tell kids to flip the paper strip over so the decorative side of the paper is against the table.
- Instruct kids to fold their paper strip in half, lengthwise (hotdog fold). Then open it up and fold the bottom up to the center fold line and the top down to the center fold line.
- Show kids how to use clear tape to seal the seam along the entire length of the folded strip. Fold down one end and seal with tape. Remind kids that taping all seams will keep air from escaping, allowing the blower to work.
- From the sealed end of the blower, roll the paper into a tight ball all the way to the open end and secure with a rubber band.
- Tell kids to stick the straw into the open end of the blower. Fold the two sides over the straw (like wrapping a gift) and secure with clear tape, to ensure no air escapes.
- If time allows, let kids wrap pieces of washi tape around the clear tape to add interest.
- Encourage kids to leave their rubber band around the party blower so that the curl sets correctly. Designate a spot for kids to place their party blowers. We suggest they pick these up tomorrow or at the end of the week. Explain that they WILL get to use them, they just need to be patient and let the curl set!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What's a party without a party blower? Once these have some time to set, you can use them to **celebrate the good news**. God loves YOU like the father loved his lost son. He is always ready and willing to forgive us. That's why he sent Jesus. God loves you SO much that He made a way for you to have a relationship with Him forever. And that IS good news."

TRAVEL TIME

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

- What's the best news you've ever received? How did that good news make you feel?
- Why do you think the older brother refused to join the party?
- What are some ways we can celebrate the good news about Jesus?

GETTING READY

PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME FOR CRAFTS ROTATION FOR VBS

1. PARTY PAPER FLAG (K-1)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Colored paper in at least three colors; three half pages for each kid
- Kid-safe scissors
- ¼-inch dowels; one for each kid
- Glue sticks
- Pencils
- Markers
- Ribbon cut into two-foot lengths; two pieces for each kid

2. RIBBON JINGLE WAND (2-3)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- ¼-inch dowels; one for each kid
- Jingle bells; two for each kid
- Scissors
- Gift ribbon cut into two-foot lengths; four for each kid
- Markers

3. CELEBRATION PINWHEEL (4-5)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Pinwheel Template" Activity Page on colored cardstock; one for each kid
- Unsharpened pencils; one for each kid
- Small pencil top erasers; one for each kid
- Push pins; one for each kid
- Kid-safe scissors
- Markers
- Washi tape

4. CELEBRATION WINDSOCK (K-5 STARTER)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- 12x18 white construction paper; one piece for each kid
- Crepe paper in various colors cut into 12-inch lengths; several for each kid
- Kid-safe scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Clear tape
- Ribbon

5. PARTY BLOWERS (STEAM OPTION)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Scrapbook paper cut into 11x2 inch strips; one for each kid
- Straws cut in half; one half for each kid
- Clear tape
- Kid-safe scissors
- Rubber bands; one for each kid
- Washi tape

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Woman at the Well
John 4:1-26, 39-42

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is the life of the party.

KEY QUESTION

How can Jesus change your life?

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
with joy when I am with you."**
Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

1. 2D LEMONADE COLLAGE

WHAT YOU NEED: "Lemonade Template" Activity Page, yellow copy paper, colored paper in various colors, kid-safe scissors, glue sticks, markers, paper straws, white paint, small plates, and sponges

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy the "Lemonade Template" Activity Page onto yellow paper and cut apart.
- Cut the sponges into small cubes.
- Place one full-size sheet of colored paper, two half sheets of different colored paper, one "Lemonade Template" cutout, and a straw at each spot at the table.
- Encourage kids to glue one of the half sheets of paper along the bottom of their full-sized piece of paper to create their "table" on the page.
- Tell kids to cut out their "Lemonade Template" and glue it onto the other half sheet of paper. Instruct them to smooth down the edges and hold until the glue adheres.
- Lead kids to draw a "cup" around their fluid by drawing a flat oval at the top, two straight sides and a rounded bottom about a half inch from the edges of the lemonade. Tell them to cut it out.
- Instruct kids to center their cup of lemonade to glue it on the page, making sure the cup rests on the table.
- Kids can run some glue along the back of a straw and glue it at an angle inside the cup. Again, make sure they apply pressure for a few seconds to allow a glue to dry.
- Encourage kids to dip a sponge cube into the white paint and stamp four or five ice cubes inside their cup.
- If time allows, kids can cut out circles for fruit slices and glue to the cup rim. They can also use markers to decorate the table at the bottom of their page.
- Make sure kids sign their pages with their names at the bottom and set aside in a designated area for pick up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When you're thirsty, what do you need? (*Pause.*) A drink! Jesus and the woman in our Bible story came to the well for a drink of water. But Jesus offered something even better than well water! Jesus wanted to give the woman living water—the kind of water that leads to eternal, forever life! The woman was so happy that she ran to tell everyone. And all the people realized that day that **Jesus is the life of the party!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Woman at the Well
John 4:1-26, 39-42

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is the life of the party.

KEY QUESTION

How can Jesus change your life?

MEMORY VERSE

"You always show me the path that leads to life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you."
Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

2. 3D LEMONADE/ WATER COLLAGE

WHAT YOU NEED: Colored paper, straws, glue sticks, clear tape, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place a straw, a full sheet of paper, and one half sheet of paper in any color at each spot at the table.
- Place several half sheets of yellow or blue paper in the center of the table.
- Encourage kids to glue their half sheet of paper along the bottom of their full sheet to create their "table."
- Let them to grab a half sheet of yellow or blue paper, lay it on the table in front of them, and fold the outside edges in to the center to create flaps that open. This doesn't have to be perfect!
- Guide kids to flip the folded page over and draw in squiggles or others details on the front of their "cup."
- Instruct them to flip it over again to the back and apply glue to ONE side (one flap) and pull the other flap over on top of the glue to line up the edges and create a 3D cup. Hold in place for several seconds to allow for glue to dry.
- Tell kids to tape the straw onto the back at an angle. Then add glue to the back of their cup and hold in place on the table on their page. Again, encourage them to hold it down until the glue dries.
- Lead kids to cut out circles from scrap paper to create fruit slices and cut a slit to add it to the rim of their cup.
- If they have time left, encourage them to use markers to decorate their table or background.
- Make sure kids sign their pages with their names at the bottom and set aside in a designated area for pick up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These cups are making me thirsty for sure. When you're thirsty, you need a drink! And that's all the woman thought she would find at the well that day. She never dreamed she would meet Jesus, God's one and only Son. Jesus told the woman that He had something even better than regular well water. Because **Jesus is the life of the party**, He offered her living water—the kind of water that leads to eternal life, a forever life with God! You can take these sculptures home as a reminder that **Jesus is the life of the party!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Woman at the Well
John 4:1-26, 39-42

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is the life of the party.

KEY QUESTION

How can Jesus change your life?

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
with joy when I am with you."**
Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

3. LIVING WATER SCULPTURE

WHAT YOU NEED: Yellow or blue cardstock, scrap paper, clear tape, blue or yellow tissue paper, paper straws, glue sticks, and clear tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set a piece of yellow or blue cardstock and a straw at each spot at the table. Place remaining supplies in the center of the table.
- Tell kids to lay their paper on the table long ways and fold up the bottom about an inch. Then fold along the right side about an inch. Open the folds to reveal a square in the bottom right hand corner. Instruct them to cut out this square.
- Guide kids to cut one inch tabs along the bottom of the page, cutting up to the fold all the way along the bottom.
- Instruct them to fold in the right side (using the fold already made) and add glue to that flap, then roll the page to line up to the two sides and hold to secure. It may look like a bit like a tear drop at first. Just remind them to hold the ends in place for several seconds to allow the glue to stick.
- Guide kids to lay it on the table and press down gently so it looks more like a cylinder.
- Tell kids to flip it over so the tabs are facing up. Show them how to push each tab into the center and secure with a small piece of clear tape.
- Lead kids to place their cup right side up on the table, crumple up some tissue paper in a matching color, and stuff into the cup.
- Allow kids to add a straw to their cup.
- Instruct kids to use scrap paper to draw some fruit to go along the side and cut out. Since this is a sculpture that will be seen from all sides, have them flip their fruit over and draw the same wedges on the back.
- If time allows, encourage kids to use markers to decorate their cups.
- Make sure kids sign their sculptures with their names at the bottom and set aside in a designated area for pick up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These sculptures are making me thirsty! What did Jesus tell the woman He could offer her at the well that day? (Pause.) Not just regular water. **Jesus is the life of the party** because Jesus offers us LIVING water. When we put our faith in Him, we can have eternal life—forever life! And that's definitely a reason to celebrate!"

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about how following Jesus has changed your life. Maybe give a specific example about the way you choose to spend your time by volunteering here at VBS, spending time reading God's Word, attending a small group, and/or in how you choose to treat others. How has knowing that Jesus offers you living water changed the way you live each day?)

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Woman at the Well
John 4:1-26, 39-42

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is the life of the party.

KEY QUESTION

How can Jesus change your life?

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
with joy when I am with you."**
Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

4. WATERCOLOR CHALK PAINTING

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic tablecloths, pencils, watercolor or art paper, flat plastic bins, chalk pastels, craft sticks, and water

WHAT YOU DO:

- Cover the tables with plastic tablecloths. Set a bin filled with about an inch of water at each table.
- Hold the chalk over the bin of water and using a craft stick, shave the chalk over the surface of the water until it's mostly covered with chalk shavings. Repeat with two more colors of chalk. Older kids can help with this step.
- Instruct kids to write their names on the back of their papers with a pencil.
- Encourage kids, one at a time, to slightly bend their art paper to create a U and lower the page into the water carefully until it rests just on the top of the water. Leave in the bin (do not press on the page) until the edges begin to curl.
- Once the curling starts, encourage them to carefully pull the paper out of the water, staying over the container to gently tap the sides to remove any excess water. If they prefer, a friend can help with this step by being a careful tapper.
- Tell kids to lay their papers flat to dry.
- If time allows, give kids a second piece of paper to repeat the same steps but this time, allow them to apply pressure to the back of the paper until the entire page is immersed in the water. This should create a marble pattern on the opposite side, too.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Your watercolor chalk paintings are so pretty! And each one is unique. I love how Jesus knew everything about the woman He met at the well that day. He knew her mistakes and He loved her just the same. He knew she needed more than drinking water. She needed living water! Jesus offers us the same living water—the kind that leads to eternal, forever life with Him! I hope these beautiful paintings will remind that you are deeply loved and that **Jesus is the life of the party.**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The Woman at the Well
John 4:1-26, 39-42

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is the life of the party.

KEY QUESTION

How can Jesus change your life?

MEMORY VERSE

"You always show me the path that leads to life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you."

Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

5. STACK THE PARTY CUP CHALLENGE (STEAM OPTION)

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic cups, string, and rubber bands

WHAT YOU DO:

- The desired goal is for kids to create a pyramid of cups without touching the cups with their hands.
- Let kids look at the items provided and come up with a plan. They can experiment with different techniques like:
 - tying strings to the cups and then attempting to lift with the string
 - tying strings to the rubber bands, stretching to place them around the cup, and moving together to stack cups as a team
- When a group has successfully stacked all 10 cups in a pyramid, challenge them place nine of the cups in a circle on the floor as the well and then move the remaining cup to the center to "draw water from the well."

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When Jesus met the woman at the well, she was so surprised that He would ask her for a drink. She was even more confused when Jesus offered her water—living water! This living water Jesus gives is like a spring of water that leads to eternal life—forever life with God that never ends! We can put our trust in Jesus to make a way for us to have a relationship with God forever. **Jesus is the life of the party.**"

TRAVEL TIME

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

- What do you think the phrase "life of the party" means? What does the phrase "party pooper" mean?
- How is Jesus the life of the party? What did He do that no one else could do?

GETTING READY

PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME FOR CRAFTS ROTATION FOR VBS

1. 2D LEMONADE/ WATER COLLAGE (K-1)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Lemonade Template" Activity Page on yellow paper and cut apart; one for each kid
- Colored paper in various colors
- Kid-safe scissors
- Glue sticks
- Markers
- Paper straws
- White washable paint
- Small paper plate
- Sponges cut into small cubes; several cubes for each group

2. 3D LEMONADE/ WATER COLLAGE (2-3)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Colored paper; one full and one half sheet for each kid
- Yellow or blue paper; one half sheet for each kid
- Glue sticks
- Paper straws
- Clear tape
- Markers

3. LIVING WATER SCULPTURE (4-5)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Yellow or blue cardstock; one piece for each kid
- Scrap paper
- Clear tape
- Blue or yellow tissue paper; one piece for each kid
- Paper straws
- Glue sticks

4. WATERCOLOR CHALK PAINTING (K-5 STARTER)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic tablecloths
- Pencils
- Watercolor or art paper; two pieces for each kid
- Flat plastic bins
- Chalk pastels
- Craft sticks
- Water (for bins)

5. STACK THE PARTY CUP CHALLENGE (STEAM OPTION)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Cups; 10 for each group
- String; one- or two-foot length for each kid
- Rubber bands; one for each kid

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Are the Light of the World
Matthew 5:14-16

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can be a party starter.

KEY QUESTION

How can YOU start the party?

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
with joy when I am with you."**
Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.**

1. START THE PARTY HATS

WHAT YOU NEED: "Party Hat Template" Activity Page, cardstock, kid safe scissors, clear tape, foam stickers, markers or Kwik Stix paint sticks; Optional: pom-poms and a hot glue gun

WHAT YOU DO:

- Print "Party Hat Template" Activity Page on white cardstock. Provide one for each kid.
- Give each kid a template and guide them to cut it out.
- Let kids use the markers or Kwik Stix to decorate their hats any way they choose. They can draw and color in dots in varying sizes, color wide and thin stripes, draw squiggly lines, etc. Kids can use foam stickers to decorate as well.
- Show kids how to roll the hat together and secure with clear tape. Be prepared to help with this step.
- If you choose to, allow kids to pick a pom-pom. Add it to the top of the hat with the hot glue. Make sure only LEADERS handle the hot glue gun.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Let's put on our hats and start the party! Jesus came to make a way for us to have a relationship with God forever. When we follow Him, we can shine a light and help others see they can follow Jesus too! Great job, friends. Remember, **you can be a party starter.**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Are the Light of the World
Matthew 5:14-16

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can be a party starter.

KEY QUESTION

How can YOU start the party?

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
with joy when I am with you."**
Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.**

2. PAPER PARTY HATS

WHAT YOU NEED: 12x18 colored paper, clear tape, and markers or Kwik Stix paint sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid two pieces of colored paper.
- Instruct the kids to lay their two pieces side by side along the widest edge and tape down the seam to create one large piece of paper
- Guide them to pull the top edge down and fold in half.
- Instruct kids to open up the page and fold in half vertically along the tape line.
- Show them how to keep the page folded and rotate so the long open edge is at the bottom. Pull down the right top corner to center line and crease. Repeat with the other corner so the top looks like a triangle.
- Tell kids to bring up the bottom edge an inch or so and fold. Flip the hat over and repeat with the other edge.
- Let kids use the markers or Kwik Stix to decorate their hats any way they choose in a party theme. They may choose to color the bottom flaps in a block pattern and add confetti or squiggly lines to the top.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"I love your creativity. Your party hats look awesome! Jesus told His disciples to shine their lights, to show others the difference God has made in their lives by the way they live. We can shine our lights and follow Jesus by loving others. Your party hats can remind you to shine bright so **you can be a party starter!**"

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when someone chose to shine a light so you could see how much Jesus loves you. Maybe they included you when others were ignoring you. Maybe they invited you to church or acted in a way that let you know you were important. How did you know their actions were because they followed Jesus?)

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Are the Light of the World
Matthew 5:14-16

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can be a party starter.

KEY QUESTION

How can YOU start the party?

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
with joy when I am with you."**
Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.**

3. PAPER PARTY CAPS

WHAT YOU NEED: Construction paper, kid-safe scissors, and glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct kids to select two paper strips in the same color and use the glue stick to glue them together to make one long strip. Hold for several seconds to secure. Then bring the two ends together to and glue to create a circle. Again, hold for several seconds to secure.
- Tell kids to lay their paper circle over the edge of a second piece of paper and trace a half circle onto the paper with a pencil. Then move the circle a half inch and draw a second half circle inside the first one.
- Show kids how to make straight cuts on each side of the larger half circle, cutting off the two ends of the paper. Then cut slits along the half circle cutting just to the larger half circle line. Once slits are cut, fold toward the center and then flatten out.
- Lay the paper strip circle you created in step one above on top of the half circle and glue the tabs to the inside. To make this easier, glue the two side tabs and center tab first, then glue the rest of the tabs.
- Once the glue is dry, cut a rounded shape out of the paper to form the bill of the hat. Now, kids should have the bill completed.
- Allow kids to select six more strips to glue to the inside the circle to create to the top of the cap. Kids can crisscross the strips, using any colors they choose.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These hats are so fun! You look ready to party. All week, we've been talking about starting the party on this journey to follow Jesus! Today we learned that **you can be a party starter**. How? By shining your light and treating others the way you want to be treated. When we love others, we show them what it looks like to follow Jesus! So, let's shine our lights and start the party so others can follow Jesus, too."

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Are the Light of the World
Matthew 5:14-16

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can be a party starter.

KEY QUESTION

How can YOU start the party?

MEMORY VERSE

"You always show me the path that leads to life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you."
Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

4. SHINE LIGHT LANTERNS

WHAT YOU NEED: Toilet paper tubes, colored craft paper, glue sticks, ribbon or twine, clear tape, staplers, and kid-safe scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set a paper tube at each spot at the table and set the remaining supplies in the center so all the kids can reach them.
- Tell kids to fold a piece of paper in half, lengthwise (hot dog style) and cut along the fold to create two pieces.
- Guide them to wrap each paper roll with the paper. Cut off any excess so the paper just covers the roll.
- Show kids how to run the glue stick over the paper and roll it around the paper tube to secure. Encourage kids to hold the paper in place on the roll and sing "Happy Birthday" in their heads to give the glue enough time to dry.
- Tell kids to take their second half sheet of paper, roll it around the paper roll once, and cut off any excess at the end.
- Guide them to lay the cut piece of paper flat on the table and fold in half lengthwise (hot dog style). Then cut slits into the folded side, about one inch from the edge.
- Encourage kids to unfold the paper and wrap it around the paper roll. Line up one edge to the paper roll about an inch from the end and staple to secure. Then line up the opposite edge of the paper to the paper roll about an inch from the other end and staple to secure. Pinch the slits in the center to make them pop out.
- Let kids cut a piece of ribbon to staple to the top for hanging.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Jesus told His followers, the disciples, to let their lights shine bright by doing good things for others and treating them the way they want to be treated. We can shine our lights in the same way too by loving all people and by treating others the way you want to be treated. Remember to shine bright so **you can be a party starter!**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

You Are the Light of the World
Matthew 5:14-16

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can be a party starter.

KEY QUESTION

How can YOU start the party?

MEMORY VERSE

**"You always show me the path
that leads to life. You will fill me
with joy when I am with you."**
Acts 2:28, NIV

BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.**

5. DIY BUBBLE WANDS AND HOMEMADE BUBBLE SOLUTION (STEAM OPTION)

WHAT YOU NEED: Pipe cleaners, craft sticks (for Option 1), pony beads (for Option 2), thin-tipped markers, washi tape, blue dish soap, sugar, water, a bowl, a spoon, and "Homemade Bubble Solution Recipe" Activity Page; *Optional: gloves or mittens*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Print "Homemade Bubble Solution Recipe" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart. Provide one card for each kid.
- Lead the kids create bubble wands in one or both of these ways.
 - Option 1: Craft sticks, pipe cleaners, and washi tape
 - Let the kids decorate their craft sticks with the markers.
 - Instruct the kids to twist two pipe cleaners together and form into an oval, circle, or heart shape.
 - Lay the ends of the pipe cleaners against the top of the craft stick and wrap with washi tape.
 - Option 2: Pipe cleaners and pony beads
 - Encourage kids to decide on their shape for the top of their bubble wand (hearts, circles, ovals, squares, triangles etc.)
 - Allow kids to choose a pipe cleaner, twist the two ends together and form the desired shape at the top.
 - Guide them to slide beads onto the ends and push up to the top shape. Repeat with as many beads as desired.
- Place the bowl and bubble solution ingredients on the table: 2 tablespoons of dish soap, 2 tablespoons of sugar, and 4 tablespoons of water.
- Instruct kids to work together to add the ingredients to the bowl and stir to combine.
- Encourage kids to try out their new bubble wands.
- If offering gloves or mittens, encourage kids to put on one for catching bubbles. This solution makes strong bubbles that will land on the glove without bursting!
- Have kids set their bubble wands in a designated spot. Add a "Bubble Solution Recipe Card" to each so kids can make their own bubble solution at home!

WHAT YOU SAY:

"These bubble wands are AWESOME! I love seeing all your creativity. Parties are way more fun with bubbles. Today we talked about how **you can be a party starter** when you shine your light by loving others. We show others that we follow Jesus when we treat them the way we want to be treated. Let's shine bright and start the party so others can follow Jesus, too!"

TRAVEL TIME

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they're learning!

- Have you ever lost power at your house? What happened? What did you use for light when the power went out?
- What is one thing you can do this week to shine a light and show others that Jesus loves them?

GETTING READY

PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME FOR CRAFTS ROTATION FOR VBS

1. START THE PARTY HATS (K-1)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the “Party Hat Template” Activity Page on white cardstock and cut apart; one for each kid
 - *Optional: You can order precut white party hats on Amazon if you have less time.*
- Kid-safe scissors
- Clear tape
- Foam stickers
- Markers or Kwik Stix paint sticks
- *Optional: Pom-poms (one for each kid) and a hot glue gun (only adults will use this)*
- Craft sticks; one for each kid (if creating Option 1)
- Pony beads; up to 10 for each kid (if creating Option 2)
- Thin-tipped markers
- Washi tape
- For each table:
 - 2 tablespoons of blue dish soap
 - 2 tablespoons of sugar
 - 4 tablespoons of water
- Bowl; one for each table
- Spoon; one for each table
- *Optional: Gloves or mittens*

2. PAPER PARTY HATS (2-3)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- 12x18 colored paper; two pieces for each kid
- Clear tape
- Markers or Kwik Stix paint sticks

3. PAPER PARTY CAPS (4-5)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Construction paper in various colors; two pieces for each kid
- Kid-safe scissors
- Glue sticks

4. SHINE YOUR LIGHT LANTERNS (K-5 STARTER)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Toilet paper tubes; one for each kid
- Colored craft paper; one piece for each kid
- Glue sticks
- Ribbon or twine
- Clear tape
- Staplers
- Kid-safe scissors

5. DIY BUBBLE WANDS AND HOMEMADE BUBBLE SOLUTION (STEAM OPTION)

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print “Homemade Bubble Solution Recipe” Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; one card for each kid
- Pipe cleaners; three for each kid (if creating both options; two for Option 1; one for Option 2)