

Vacation Bible School

*The Big Arena*

(Worship for Children)

*Tejas Trail—*

*Finding True Friendship in Jesus*



## **Suggested Elements of Worship for Children (Entering Second through Seventh Grades)**

**Scripture:** Each day the unit Bible verse for the week will be read. It is important for children to understand the Scripture and learn how to apply the Bible truths to their everyday life. The unit Bible verse will be reviewed and learned each day in the classroom, also.

**Music:** Music is a powerful medium to use with children. The praise songs suggested were chosen because of the simplicity of the words and the message. Children are literal learners. If other songs are chosen, remember to find Scripture-based songs without symbolism, if possible. The songs on the PowerPoint® and the countdown video may be individually downloaded from [www.godskidsworship.com](http://www.godskidsworship.com). Click on the **download** tab and choose **countdown videos** and **songs**. The songs are recorded using children's voices and are easy to sing-along. You may choose the sing-along version or the accompaniment track. If you want a printed version of the lyrics, you may download those at no cost. Consider using a children's praise team to lead each day. The children would learn the songs prior to VBS. Each day, they would stand at the front with the children's minister, minister of music, or other leader to lead in worship. Sign language for key words or appropriate movement could be added to help the children remember the words to the songs.

**Mission Stories:** Missions should be an important part of VBS. A mission story is provided for each session. The mission stories highlight four ministries that are supported by the Mary Hill Davis offering. Each day the children will hear stories about four ministries in Texas and how they can pray and give towards these ministries. The mission story may be told as a part of the corporate worship experience each day. The mission story for each day is included in this script. Pictures are included on the PowerPoint presentation.

**Offering:** Another element of worship is bringing an offering. Children and parents need to understand that VBS is free and these offerings are not payment for them to attend. Consider giving the offering to support the Mary Hill Davis Offering. For more information about this offering, visit [www.texasbaptists.org](http://www.texasbaptists.org). If your church has a mission project that would benefit from the offering, please explain the project to the children so they will know where and what their money will be used to help. The offering may be taken during the worship time by older children, or older children could stand by the exit doors with containers. As the children are dismissed by grade level, they could place their offerings in the container. Create a diagram for each class, showing them which door to use for an exit. This will speed up the exit each day.

**Pledges:** The pledges to the American Flag, Christian Flag, and the Bible are also important elements of VBS worship. Allow children in each grade to hold the flags and the Bible. Prepare a schedule prior to VBS indicating which departments will be responsible for leading the pledges for each day. The children chosen from those departments will meet with the director of VBS early each day to go over instructions about the pledges.

**Presenting the Plan of Salvation:** On Day four, the plan of salvation may be presented to the children. Please refer to the **Teaching Resource: Talking to Children about Salvation** for suggestions on presenting the plan of salvation to children. The resource may be downloaded

from the VBS webpage or it is included in the script on pages 16-18. See other suggestions in the worship material for Day 4.

## Day 1: A True Friend Is Loyal in Difficult Times

### Slide 1: VBS Theme Picture

Play "The Great Adventure"<sup>1</sup> or "Summer, A Giraffe and a Harmonica"<sup>2</sup> countdown video to play as the children are entering the worship center.

**Welcome (Worship leader):** Welcome children to Vacation Bible School and introduce the theme, *Tejas Trail: Finding True Friendship in Jesus*. Say, *Howdy! We are going to have fun this week learning about Texas, singing great songs, and playing exciting games while we learn how to be a true friend. Most important, we are going to learn that Jesus is our greatest friend.*

**Slide 2:** *Our session title for today is: A True Friend is Loyal in Difficult Times. We will hear (or have heard) the story of David and Jonathan. They were best friends but they had to go through a difficult time. Well, let's pull on our boots and hats, and get ready to sing! Let's get started right now!*

### Slides 3-29: Praise Song: "Let's Get Started"<sup>3</sup>

### Slide 30: Unit Bible Verse

**(Worship leader):** *There is a special Bible verse that tells about the love that God and God's Son, Jesus have for us. Because Jesus is our greatest and best friend, Jesus did something incredible for us. He gave his life so we can be forgiven of our sins. (Hold up a Bible open to John 3:16.) Our VBS Scripture is found in John 3:16. It describes the love of God for each of us. Please read it with me:*

***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).***

**(Worship leader):** Explain the meaning of the Bible verse. Ask, *Whom does this verse say God loves? (the world). That means God loves everyone including you and me. Whom did God give? (his Son, Jesus). The word **whoever** means you and me—everyone! What do we need to do? (believe in Jesus). Let's read the Bible verse again and think about how much God loves us. Read the VBS Scripture again and ask children to stand for the song. Now, we're going to sing a Scripture song using the words from John 3:16.*

### Slides 31-64: Scripture Song: "This is the Way God Loved (John 3:16)"<sup>4</sup>

**Pledges**—Each day, the children holding the flags and the Bible will sit on the front row. During the song, ask the children to take their places on the platform with the flags and the Bible.

---

<sup>1</sup> "The Great Adventure," written by Steven Curtis Chapman.

<sup>2</sup> "Summer, A Giraffe and a Harmonica" video by Bob Singleton, God's Kids Worship

<sup>3</sup> "Let's Get Started," written by Martha Bolton & Bob Singleton (c) 2009 Agnes Day Music, BMI/Sky Taylor Music ASCAP CCLI# 5625406

<sup>4</sup> "This is the Way God Loved (John 3:16)," written by Martha Bolton & Bob Singleton (c) 2009 Sky Taylor Music, ASCAP; Agnes Day Music, BMI; admin by Agnes Day Music, BMI. CCLI # 5625389

### **Slide 65: Pledge to the American Flag**

**Pledge to the American Flag—(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now stand and pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. ATTENTION (child stands straight beside the flag), SALUTE (child picks up the flag and places the end of the pole in the center of his or her stomach, holding the flag with two hands), PLEDGE (child lowers the flag so it is visible while all say the pledge). I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.* When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the flag and place it in the stand. The child remains standing by the flag until all the pledges have been given.

### **Slide 66: Pledge to the Christian Flag**

**Pledge to the Christian Flag—(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now say the pledge to the Christian Flag. ATTENTION (child stands straight beside the flag), SALUTE (child picks up the flag and places the end of the pole in the center of his or her stomach, holding the flag with two hands), PLEDGE (child lowers the flag so it is visible while all say the pledge). I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands, one brotherhood uniting all Christians in service and love.* When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the flag and place it in the stand. The child remains standing by the flag until all pledges have been given.

### **Slide 67: Pledge to the Bible**

**Pledge to the Bible—(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now say the pledge to the Bible, God's holy word. ATTENTION (child stands with the Bible in one hand down to the side of his or her body), SALUTE (child lifts the Bible to waist position and holds the Bible with two hands), PLEDGE (child straightens arms so Bible is visible).* When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the Bible and all the children will return to sit on the front row for the remainder of the service.

### **Slides 68-94: Praise Song: "Be Very Strong, Be Very Brave"<sup>5</sup>**

**(Worship Leader):** *Stand up and sing Be Very Strong, Be Very Brave with me. David and Jonathan had to be very strong and brave. God helped them through their difficult time. God can help you, too!*

### **Slides 95-97: Mission Story and Pictures**

Each day, we will hear a mission story. Today, our story is about Mary Hill Davis. There is a mission offering named after her. There are many ministries supported by the Mary Hill Davis offering. This week you will hear about four different ministries in Texas . So, listen as I tell you about Mary Hill Davis.

### **Slide 96: Picture of Mary Hill Davis**

Tell the story of Mary Hill Davis

---

<sup>5</sup> "Be Very Strong, Be Very Brave," by Martha Bolton & Bob Singleton (c) 2009 Sky Taylor Music, ASCAP; Agnes Day Music, BMI; admin by Agnes Day Music, BMI. CCLI # 5536296

## Who is Mary Hill Davis?

Every September we hear her name—Mary Hill Davis. Who was Mary Hill Davis and why do we have an offering named after her? Mary Hill was born in Greenville, Georgia around 1860, just before the Civil War started. In 1870, she moved with her family to Dallas, Texas from Tennessee and became a member of First Baptist Church. When she was twenty years old, she married F.S. Davis, who was a doctor in Dallas. She had one son, who became a doctor just like his father.

But why do we remember her every year? We remember her because Mary Hill Davis had a heart for missions and people. She spent her life trying to find more ways to get people in Texas involved in giving to and praying for missions. As president of the Texas Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), she helped start Royal Ambassadors (RA's) so that boys could learn more about missions in 1908. In 1913, she did the same thing for girls by starting Girl's Auxiliary (or as we know it, Girls in Action or GA's). It was important to her for boys and girls to learn about missions and how they can tell people about Jesus. If you are an RA or a GA, you have Mary Hill Davis to thank!

Mary Hill Davis' story doesn't end with GA's and RA's! She wanted everyone in the church to be involved in missions in Texas. She knew that there were a lot of people in Texas who needed to hear about Jesus and even more people who needed help. She encouraged women in the churches to pray for missions and give their money to help people who needed it. She used that money to take care of retired pastors who were often very poor, to take care of children who didn't have families, and to support schools in Texas and China.

It didn't stop there. Mary Hill Davis knew that people came to Texas from all over the world and that those people needed to hear about Jesus just as much as people who were born here. She encouraged people to be missionaries wherever they live. Today, the offering named after her supports ministries all over Texas that serve people in cowboy churches, people that come from all over the world to work in the oil fields, people who left everything behind to move here from other countries and need help building a life, people with special needs, and many, many more. Through the Mary Hill Davis Offering®, we follow her example as we help people all over Texas and around the world get to hear about Jesus.

You can be like Mary Hill Davis, too! You can pray for missionaries in Texas and for people in Texas to hear about Jesus. You can tell your friends about Jesus. You can show Jesus' love to people around you. You can give money to the Mary Hill Davis Offering®. There are lots of things you can do to help people in Texas hear about Jesus!

### **Slide 97: Prayer**

Pray for the Mary Hill Davis offering. Thank God for the ministries that are supported by the Mary Hill Davis offering.

**Worship Leader: (At this time, the children chosen to receive the offering should take their baskets and stand by the exit doors)** *Today as you leave, there will be children at the door with*

*baskets for your offerings. This week the money that you bring each day will be given to the Mary Hill Davis offering. If you choose to give the money to another ministry, explain to the children how their offerings will be used.*

**Slide 98: VBS Theme Picture**

**Recessional and Offering: "The Great Adventure"**<sup>6</sup> Play this song as the children exit. Dismiss the children by grade level and remind them to use the doors assigned to them to exit.

---

<sup>6</sup> "The Great Adventure," written by Steven Curtis Chapman.

## Day 2: A True Friend Helps Others Make Good Choices

### **Slide 1: VBS Theme Picture**

Play "The Great Adventure"<sup>7</sup> or "Summer, A Giraffe and a Harmonica"<sup>8</sup> countdown video as the children enter the worship center.

### **Slide 2: Welcome and Session Title:**

**(Worship leader):** *Howdy, cowboys and cowgirls! Welcome to Vacation Bible School. Ask, Did you have fun yesterday? How many of you brought a friend to VBS? Say, I am happy to see so many new faces here today. I am looking forward to meeting many of you. Yesterday, you learned how Jonathan and David remained faithful friends in a very difficult time. Today our session title is **A True Friend Helps Others Make Good Choices**. You will hear (or have heard) the story of Daniel and his three friends. Daniel was a good influence on his friends. God wants each of you to be a good influence on your friends. Grab your horse and let's get ready to sing!*

### **Slides 3-23: Song: "Get Up, Get Down"<sup>9</sup>**

### **Slide 24: Unit Bible Verse**

**(Worship leader):** *The VBS Bible verse also tells us about God's love. (Hold up a Bible open to John 3:16.) Ask, Who knows where it is found in the Bible? (John 3:16) Say, That is correct. Please read this Bible verse with me:*

***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).***

Worship leader: (Explain the meaning of the Bible verse.) Ask, *Whom does this verse say God loves? (all of us). It doesn't matter how old you are, the color of your skin, or if you think you are good looking or not, God loves you. No matter who you are or what you have done, God still loves you. Ask, Whom does this verse say we should believe in? (Jesus) Say, It says we will have eternal life if we believe in Jesus. Eternal life means you will live in heaven with God forever. If you have Jesus as your friend and Savior, you will be with God in heaven one day. Now, let's sing another song that tells us how much Jesus loves us! Stand up and sing with our praise team!*

### **Slides 25-41: Praise Song: "Oh, How I Love Jesus"<sup>10</sup>**

**Pledges**—Each day, the children holding the flags and the Bible will sit on the front row. During the song, ask the children to take their places on the platform with the flags and the Bible.

---

<sup>7</sup> "The Great Adventure," written by Steven Curtis Chapman.

<sup>8</sup> "Summer, A Giraffe and a Harmonica" video by Bob Singleton, God's Kids Worship

<sup>9</sup> "Get Up, Get Down," written by Bob Singleton (c) 2009 Agnes Day Music, BMI. CCLI # 5536272

<sup>10</sup> "Oh, How I Love Jesus," arranged and new material by Bob Singleton (c) 2002 Agnes Day Music, BMI. CCLI # 4596756

#### **Slide 42: Pledge to the American Flag**

**Pledge to the American Flag—(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now stand and pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. ATTENTION (child stands straight beside the flag), SALUTE (child picks up the flag and places the end of the pole in the center of his or her stomach, holding the flag with two hands), PLEDGE (child lowers the flag so it is visible while all say the pledge).* When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the flag and place it in the stand. The child remains standing by the flag until all the pledges have been given.

#### **Slide 43: Pledge to the Christian Flag**

**Pledge to the Christian Flag—(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now say the pledge to the Christian Flag. ATTENTION (child stands straight beside the flag), SALUTE (child picks up the flag and places the end of the pole in the center of his or her stomach, holding the flag with two hands), PLEDGE (child lowers the flag so it is visible while all say the pledge).* When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the flag and place it in the stand. The child remains standing by the flag until all pledges have been given.

#### **Slide 44: Pledge to the Bible**

**Pledge to the Bible—(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now say the pledge to the Bible, God's holy word. ATTENTION (child stands with the Bible in one hand down to the side of his or her body), SALUTE (child lifts the Bible to waist position and holds the Bible with two hands), PLEDGE (child straightens arms so Bible is visible).* When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the Bible and return to sit on the front row for the remainder of the service.

#### **Slides 45-71: Worship Song: "Be Very Strong, Be Very Brave"<sup>11</sup>**

**(Worship Leader):** *Let's sing the song we sang yesterday about being strong and brave. Daniel was very brave in our Bible story today.*

#### **Slides 72-75: Mission Story and Pictures**

Today, our story highlights the Special Friends' Retreat. *Listen as I tell you a story that Mr. Ron shares with children.* Show the pictures on the PowerPoint while telling the story.

Every year there are two Special Friends' Retreats for mentally challenged people in Texas. These retreats were established for individuals with learning disabilities to have an overnight camp time and learn about God. The retreats are held at Plains Baptist Encampment in Floydada and Mt. Lebanon Baptist Encampment in Cedar Hill. The retreats are unique because we encourage parents and teachers to come. We have a support time for parents and a training time for teachers. But, the fun times are when the campers are learning about God! Their Bible Study times are designed just for them—on their level of understanding. Then on Friday night, there is a talent show for the campers to sing, recite scriptures, read poems, or tell jokes. Now, I want to tell you about two friends that come to the retreat.

My first friend is Lee. He is an artist and a creative genius! In fact, he has created cards that are

---

<sup>11</sup> "Be Very Strong, Be Very Brave," by Martha Bolton & Bob Singleton (c) 2009 Sky Taylor Music, ASCAP; Agnes Day Music, BMI; admin by Agnes Day Music, BMI. CCLI # 5536296

being sent all over the United States. He works on these cards all year and proudly shares them with his friends. He is now creating logos. By the way, did I tell you that Lee is an adult with mental challenges? His godly creativity and willingness to share his cards helps others see Christ through him.

My next friend is Melissa. She is a teacher. She loves preschoolers and loves to teach them about God. Her church trained her to teach preschoolers. Every Sunday she teaches an activity, on the preschooler's level, that helps them know that God loves each one of them. By the way, did I tell you that Melissa was oxygen deprived at birth and will never be considered "normal"? Her caring ways and godly actions help others see Christ through her.

Now let me tell you about a church. The DNA of this church is to accept individuals with mental differences. They have a Bible Study with wonderful leaders who know and love each of their class members. They teach biblical facts and shares life changing examples of how God cares for them individually. This class then worships with the entire church body because they are valued as participants in life's journey. By the way, did I tell you that the church is a valued core of its community? This body of believers demonstrates God's example of extending a non-prejudiced welcome to individuals with special needs.

Here are examples of churches who are investing, valuing, and cherishing individuals with special needs. These individuals with special needs are changed because of time their churches are investing in them. Doors are open in all our communities to minister to families who have special needs. What is your church doing to minister to these families? This could mean the following:

- To train teachers how to include our special friends with their age groups in Bible Study
- Creating a Bible Study
- Educating the "normal" church members to accept people who are mentally different
- Accepting the diverse sounds that are made
- Loving individuals with their unique looks
- Raising the awareness of children to accept others who are different

All these godly individuals have made a difference in my life because I have seen each one of them being used by God. This is the reason why every church should look beyond differences and invite families with special needs members to worship with them. Individuals with special needs are real and are in your community. Do you see them? Have you met them? It's time we see Christ through them.

**Slide 76: Prayer** Pray for all special friends. God loves them very much. Help us to show love and compassion to these special friends.

- **Worship Leader:** (At this time, the children who have been chosen to receive the offering should take their baskets and stand by the exit doors.) *Today as you leave, there will be children at the door with baskets for your offerings. This week the money that you bring each day will be given to the Mary Hill Davis offering. If you choose to give the money to another ministry, explain to the children how their offerings will be used.*

**Slide 77: VBS Theme Picture:** Recessional and Offering: "The Great Adventure"<sup>12</sup> Play this song as the children exit. Dismiss the children by grade level and remind them to use the doors assigned to them to exit.

## Day 3: A True Friend Helps in Times of Trouble

### Slide 1: VBS Theme Picture

Play "The Great Adventure"<sup>12</sup> or "Summer, A Giraffe and a Harmonica"<sup>13</sup> countdown video as the children enter the worship center.

**Welcome (Worship leader):** Say, *Hey, y'all! If you brought a new friend to VBS today, stand with your friend. Give me a big wave and say, "Howdy." We are happy to see so many new cowboys and cowgirls.*

**Slide 2: Session Title:** *Today, our session title is A True Friend Helps in Times of Trouble. You will hear (or heard) the Bible story about "Jesus Calming the Storm." Jesus helped his friends in a very frightening situation! Are you ready to get started? Let's get started right now!*

### Slides 3-29: Praise Song: "Let's Get Started"<sup>14</sup>

### Slide 30: Unit Bible Verse

**(Worship leader):** Say, *God helps us when we are afraid because God loves us very much. Our VBS Scripture tells us how much God loves us. Please read it with me.*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).*

### Slide 31-64: Scripture Song: "This is the Way God Loved (John 3:16)"<sup>15</sup>

**(Worship Leader):** *Are you ready to sing our John 3:16 song? Stand and let's join our praise team as we sing!*

**Pledges**—Each day, the children holding the flags and the Bible will sit on the front row. During the song, ask the children to take their places on the platform with the flags and the Bible.

### Slide 65: Pledge to the American Flag

**Pledge to the American Flag**—**(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now stand and pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. ATTENTION (child stands straight beside the flag), SALUTE (child picks up the flag and places the end of the pole in the center of his or her stomach, holding the flag with two hands), PLEDGE (child lowers the flag so it is visible while all say the pledge).* When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the flag and place it in the stand. The child remains standing by the flag until all the pledges have been given.

---

<sup>12</sup> "The Great Adventure," written by Steven Curtis Chapman.

<sup>13</sup> "Summer, A Giraffe and a Harmonica" countdown video by Bob Singleton, God's Kids Worship.

<sup>14</sup> "Let's Get Started," written by Martha Bolton & Bob Singleton (c) 2009 Sky Taylor Music, ASCAP; Agnes Day Music, BMI; admin by Agnes Day Music, BMI. CCLI # 5543557

<sup>15</sup> "This is the Way God Loved (John 3:16)," by Martha Bolton & Bob Singleton (c) 2009 Sky Taylor Music, ASCAP; Agnes Day Music, BMI; admin by Agnes Day Music, BMI. CCLI # 5625389

### **Slide 66: Pledge to the Christian Flag**

**Pledge to the Christian Flag—(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now say the pledge to the Christian Flag. ATTENTION (child stands straight beside the flag), SALUTE (child picks up the flag and places the end of the pole in the center of his or her stomach, holding the flag with two hands), PLEDGE (child lowers the flag so it is visible while all say the pledge).* When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the flag and place it in the stand. The child remains standing by the flag until all pledges have been given.

### **Slide 67: Pledge to the Bible**

**Pledge to the Bible—(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now say the pledge to the Bible, God's holy word. ATTENTION (child stands with the Bible in one hand down to the side of his or her body), SALUTE (child lifts the Bible to waist position and holds the Bible with two hands), PLEDGE (child straightens arms so Bible is visible).* When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the Bible and return to sit on the front row for the remainder of the service.

### **Slides 68-101: Worship Song: "Too Strong to Ever Let Me Go"<sup>16</sup>**

**(Worship Leader):** *This next song talks about when things are not going well and we need some help—like our friends in our Bible story today. They thought they were going to drown but Jesus was there to help them. Stand and sing with our praise team!*

### **Slides 102-105: Mission Story and Pictures**

Today our mission story highlights Cowboy Churches.

#### **Let's Rodeo**

The greatest tool that cowboy churches have to reach people of western heritage is the arena ministry. A team roping, barrel race, ranch rodeo, bull riding, play-day or any other competitive rodeo event draws people from cowboy culture. This gives the church the opportunity to build relationships and share Jesus with people who do not attend church and who do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior. At events like these, a short devotion, five to ten minutes, is shared so that people attending may hear the good news about Jesus Christ, or sometimes the church has church in the dirt” during the event. In this case the church service, singing and preaching takes place in the arena before or during the arena event.

For new cowboy churches and smaller cowboy churches, sometimes it is a challenge to come up with money to finance these events. Texas Baptists’ Western Heritage Ministry comes alongside these churches and partners with them. We assist the church with part of the cost for these types of events. Some of these funds are made available because of giving to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for state missions. Pennies or dollars you give to the Mary Hill Davis Offering for state missions work allows you to partner with God in what HE is doing through these cowboy churches to reach cowboys and cowgirls for Jesus Christ. Thank you for giving generously to state missions work!

---

<sup>16</sup> "Too Strong to Ever Let Me Go," by Martha Bolton & Bob Singleton (c) 2009 Sky Taylor Music, ASCAP; Agnes Day Music, BMI; admin by Agnes Day Music, BMI. CCLI # 5543320

**Slide 106: Prayer**

Pray for the leaders in the Cowboy Churches. *Thank you, God, for VBS. Thank you, God, for all the children who came today. Thank you for always loving us. We love you. Amen.*

**Worship Leader:** (At this time, the children chosen to receive the offering should take their baskets and stand by the exit doors) *Today as you leave, there will be children at the door with baskets for your offerings. This week the money that you bring each day will be given to Mary Hill Davis offering. If you choose to give the money to another ministry, explain to the children how their offerings will be used.*

**Slide 107: VBS Theme Picture**

**Recessional and Offering:** "The Great Adventure"<sup>17</sup> Play this song as the children exit. Dismiss the children by grade level and remind them to use the doors assigned to them to exit.

---

<sup>17</sup> "The Great Adventure," written by Steven Curtis Chapman.

## Day 4: Jesus Is Our Friend and Savior

### **Slide 1: VBS Theme Picture**

Play "The Great Adventure"<sup>18</sup> or "Summer, a Giraffe and a Harmonica"<sup>19</sup> countdown video as the children enter the worship center.

**Welcome (Worship leader):** *Howdy y'all. If you're new to VBS today, wave your hand and say, "Yippee!" We are sure glad you're here today. We have been learning how to be a good friend like Jesus. Today we are going to hear a story that tells us how much Jesus loves us.*

### **Slide 2: Session Title**

*Today, our session title is **Jesus is Our Friend and Savior**. John 3:16 tells us that God loved us so much that he gave his only Son so that we may have never-ending or eternal life! We will talk more about this eternal life a little later. Are you ready to sing? Get on your feet!*

### **Slides 3-23: Praise Song: "Get Up, Get Down"<sup>20</sup>**

### **Slide 24: Unit Bible Verse**

**(Worship leader):** *Raise your hand if you think you can say our VBS Scripture without looking at the screen. If you know the Bible verse, close your eyes and say it from memory.*

***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).***

*Today after our pledges, we will hear more about this verse. Well, are you ready to sing? Stand and let's join our praise team as we sing!*

### **Slides 25-62: Song: "I Believe You"<sup>21</sup>**

**(Worship Leader):** *Listen as our praise team sings the first verse and then you join in!*

**Pledges**—Each day, the children holding the flags and the Bible will sit on the front row. During the song, ask the children to take their places on the platform with the flags and the Bible.

### **Slide 63: Pledge to the American Flag**

**Pledge to the American Flag**—**(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now stand and pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. **ATTENTION (child stands straight beside the flag), SALUTE (child picks up the flag and places the end of the pole in the center of his or her stomach, holding the flag with two hands), PLEDGE (child lowers the flag so it is visible while all say the pledge).*** When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the flag and place it in the stand. The child remains standing by the flag until all the pledges have been given.

---

<sup>18</sup> "The Great Adventure," written by Steven Curtis Chapman.

<sup>19</sup> "Summer, a Giraffe and a Harmonica" countdown video by Bob Singleton, God's Kids Worship.

<sup>20</sup> "Get Up, Get Down," written by Bob Singleton (c) 2009 Agnes Day Music, BMI. CCLI # 5536272

<sup>21</sup> "I Believe You," written by Martha Bolton & Bob Singleton (c) 2009 Sky Taylor Music, ASCAP & Agnes Day Music, BMI. admin by Agnes Day Music, BMI. CCLI # 5543289

### **Slide 64: Pledge to the Christian Flag**

**Pledge to the Christian Flag—(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now say the pledge to the Christian Flag. ATTENTION (child stands straight beside the flag), SALUTE (child picks up the flag and places the end of the pole in the center of his or her stomach, holding the flag with two hands), PLEDGE (child lowers the flag so it is visible while all say the pledge).* When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the flag and place it in the stand. The child remains standing by the flag until all pledges have been given.

### **Slide 65: Pledge to the Bible**

**Pledge to the Bible—(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now say the pledge to the Bible, God's holy word. ATTENTION (child stands with the Bible in one hand down to the side of his or her body), SALUTE (child lifts the Bible to waist position and holds the Bible with two hands), PLEDGE (child straightens arms so Bible is visible).* When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the Bible and return to sit on the front row for the remainder of the service.

### **Slides 66-108: Worship Song: "A Brand New Me"<sup>22</sup>**

**(Worship Leader):** *Stand and sing this new song.*

### **Slides 109-113: Mission Story and Pictures**

Today our mission story highlights Project: Start. This ministry helps refugees coming into our country from all over the world.

## ***Project Start***

Imagine you and your family had to move to a new country where you didn't know how to speak the language. Imagine that you couldn't take anything with you except what you could carry (and maybe not even that). Imagine that you arrived in this new place and didn't know anyone except your family. How would you feel? Would you be scared? Lonely?

People come to the United States for a lot of reasons, but sometimes people come here because the country they were living in was not safe. Sometimes they were not safe because of what they believed and sometimes they were not safe because of fighting and violence in their home country. These people are called refugees. When refugees come to the United States, they usually don't get to bring much with them.

That's what happened to Leonid's family in 1989 when they came to Seattle, Washington from the Soviet Union. It was illegal to be a Christian in the Soviet Union and the people who worshipped in secret churches were often punished. When Leonid's family came to Seattle, he lived with his parents and four brothers and sisters in a small apartment in a part of the city that was not safe. But his family will always remember the new friends they made as neighbors. Churches provided food, helped them learn English, and even invited them for their first Thanksgiving dinner and picnic. Now his family lives in Texas and ministers to more than 100,000 Russian-speaking immigrants.

---

<sup>22</sup> "A Brand New Me," written by Martha Bolton & Bob Singleton (c) 2009 Sky Taylor Music, ASCAP; Agnes Day Music, BMI; admin by Agnes Day Music, BMI. CCLI # 5536296

Because of what Leonid experienced as a child, he wants to help other people coming to the United States as refugees. He directs the *Project: Start* Refugee Resource Center in Dallas. Thousands and thousands of refugees live in Dallas along a three-mile stretch called Vickery Meadow. As refugees need resources like food or transportation, *Project: Start* volunteers help. Sometimes volunteers help by taking families to the grocery store or hospital. Sometimes they help by helping families that might not speak English sign up for assistance. Among these volunteers are pastors of Farsi, Arabic, and Burmese-speaking churches. They help refugees find a church where their language is spoken.

One family from Afghanistan came to the *Project: Start* office looking for a vacuum cleaner. As volunteers met the family, they found out that they had arrived nine days before and still did not have all the furniture and other items they needed. They also needed food and wanted to take an English as a second language class. *Project: Start* volunteers helped them find a ministry that gave pots, kitchen utensils, and emergency food money; an organization that signed them up for ESL and computer classes; a list of grocery stores; helped them apply for and get assistance with food; and introduced them to a local Farsi-speaking church (Farsi is spoken in Afghanistan). The pastor of the church and other church members visited the family and brought them a vacuum cleaner and an iron. The next Sunday, the church picked up the family and spent the day with them at church and dinner afterwards.

**Slide 114: Prayer:** Please pray for the refugees coming into our country and into our state. Pray for more volunteers to help in *Project: Start*.

**\*Option:** At this time, you may decide to share the plan of salvation with the children. Decide which children should remain in the worship center. You may decide that sending children entering second and third grades back to their classes may be best for your situation. A minister or director of that department could share with those children in their classroom. As the younger children leave, lead the other children in singing "A Brand New Me"<sup>23</sup>. They will give their offerings as they leave. Please refer to **Talking to Children about Salvation** (pages 16-18) for guidance in sharing the plan of salvation with children.

After sharing the plan of salvation with the children, ask the children who would like to know more about becoming a Christian to come to the front. It's better not to offer an invitation because some children will walk down because their friends are coming. Dismiss the classes as you have done each day. The children taking the offering should be at the door. Communicate with the teachers that someone will bring the children who have made decisions back to their room. Make sure to have enough adults to talk to the children at this time and record the decisions so a follow-up visit can take place.

*Today, as you leave, there will be children at the door with baskets for your offerings. This week the money that you bring each day will be given to the Mary Hill Davis offering. If you choose to give the offering to another ministry, explain to the children how the offering will be used.*

---

<sup>23</sup> "A Brand New Me," written by Martha Bolton & Bob Singleton (c) 2009 Sky Taylor Music, ASCAP; Agnes Day Music, BMI; admin by Agnes Day Music, BMI. CCLI # 5536296

**Prayer Time:** *Thank you, God, for VBS. Thank you, God, for all the children who came today. Thank you for giving us never-ending life. Help us to know you better. We love you. Amen.*

**Slide 115: VBS Theme Picture**

**Recessional and Offering:** "The Great Adventure"<sup>24</sup>. Play this song as the children exit. Dismiss the children by grade level and remind them to use the doors assigned to them to exit.

---

<sup>24</sup> "The Great Adventure," written by Steven Curtis Chapman.

## Talking to Children about Salvation

Written by: **Dr. Tommy Sanders**, Vice President of Academic and Graduate Programs at East Texas Baptist University, Marshall, Texas

Guiding children to take those first steps toward faith can be the most rewarding opportunity of life for both parents and teachers. The journey toward faith is filled with teachable moments. Influential adults and peers can answer questions, teach biblical truths, model Christian values, and share personal testimonies that further the child's understanding. The following information will prepare teachers for opportunities to talk with children about salvation.

### **Ask Follow-Up Questions**

When a child asks a question, often the child does not know exactly what to ask. Get clarification before deciding how to answer the question. For example, you might say, *Tell me more about what you are thinking.* You may ask questions such as, *What made you ask that question? Where did you hear about this?* Many times the question a child asks may not be the actual question for which the child needs an answer. Avoid asking questions that can be answered with *yes* or *no*.

### **Avoid Giving More Information Than Needed**

Adults are often tempted to tell all they know on a subject. When a child asks a question, answer only what the child is asking. Listen carefully to the child. If the child asks for more information, be more specific with your answers.

### **Don't Jump to Conclusions**

A child may ask, *Why did Andy get baptized?* This question may be only a request for information, not a request for the gospel presentation.

### **Speak in Clear and Simple Terms**

Avoid symbolic analogies and "church language" that may distract from discussion and understanding. Common "church language" includes words and phrases children hear only at church, such as "come forward," "saved," "everlasting life," "baptism," "prayer," "Holy Spirit," and "have Jesus come into your heart." Rather than using the phrase "accepting Jesus into your heart," say the words "becoming a Christian."

### **Baptism**

Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is a picture of what Jesus did to save us—death, burial, and resurrection. Always make a distinction between baptism and becoming a Christian. Point out that becoming a Christian comes first. Someone is baptized as an outward sign that he or she has already asked Jesus to come into his or her life as Savior and Lord. The person is already a Christian.

## What a Child Needs to Know About Salvation

### **1. God loves you and has a great plan for your life.** (Psalm 139:13-16)

Talk about these truths: God made the world; God made people; God made you; God wants to have a relationship with you. Say, *Tell me one way you know God loves you.*

### **2. We have all sinned.** (Romans 3:23)

Everyone must understand that he or she is separated from God because of his or her sin. Sin is best understood as choosing to do things our way instead of God's way. (Give examples of sin, such as disobedience, ungratefulness, and lying.) Ask the child, *Have you ever sinned? What does God think about sin?* Point out that everyone has sinned.

### **3. Even though we choose to sin, God still loves us and offers to forgive us.** (Romans 5:8)

Ask, *How do you think it makes God feel when you sin?* Focus on the fact that God loves us even when we sin. Say, *God promised that a Savior would come who would die for all people. Do you know who that Savior is? Did you know that he died for you?*

### **4. Jesus died for us.** (John 3:16)

Talk about John 3:16. Explain that because sin separates people from God, everyone needs a Savior. Ask, *Do you know why Jesus died?* Say, *Jesus loves you so much. He willingly died for you so you could be with God forever.* If the child is old enough to understand the resurrection, say, *Jesus rose from the dead so we can have eternal life.*

### **5. You can become a Christian by confessing you are a sinner and Jesus is your Savior and Lord.** (Romans 10:9)

Ask, *Would you like to be a Christian?* Explain that the word "confess" means you must say that you are a sinner and Jesus is your Savior. To become a Christian, you must do these three things: admit you have sinned; believe that Jesus is God's Son; confess that Jesus is your Savior and Lord.

### **Review and Follow Up**

Encourage a child to tell you in his or her own words what he or she understands and believes. Either ask the child to repeat a prayer after you or help the child know what to say in his or her own prayer. After the prayer, read Romans 10:13 and remind the child that this verse is a promise. Jesus will be our Savior forever.

## The ABCs of Becoming a Christian

**A—Admit** to God you are a sinner. When you choose to do things your way instead of God's way, it is sin. Sin separates you from God. All people need to admit to God they have sinned and ask for God's forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)

**B—Believe** that Jesus is God's Son and accept God's gift of forgiveness. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. God loves you so much that God sent his only Son to die for the world and for you. (John 3:16)

**C—Confess** Jesus as your Savior and Lord. When you become a Christian, you are saying that you want God to forgive you and that you want Jesus to be your boss. (Romans 10:9-10)

### Prayer

Say, *If you want to talk to God about accepting Jesus as your Savior, no words are better than your own words. If you need a little help, you can pray like this:*

God, I know that you love me and have a great plan for my life. I admit I have sinned and chosen to do things my way instead of your way. I believe that Jesus is your Son and that Jesus died for me. Please forgive me of my sin. As of today, Jesus is my Lord and Savior. Amen

Encourage the child to tell his or her parents and Sunday School teacher about asking Jesus to come into his or her life.

## Day 5: A True Friend Tells Others About Jesus

### Slide 1: VBS Theme Picture

Play "The Great Adventure"<sup>25</sup> or "Summer, a Giraffe and a Harmonica"<sup>26</sup> as the children enter the worship center.

**Welcome (Worship leader):** *Howdy, cowpokes! We sure have had a fantastic week at Vacation Bible School. As I have visited around the ranch, I have seen a lot of great learning taking place. It makes God happy and me, too, to see you all learning about Jesus, our greatest friend.*

### Slide 2: Session Title

*Today our session title is **A True Friend Tells Others About Jesus**. In our Bible story, we will hear (or have heard) the story about Paul telling Lydia about Jesus. We also have the commandment to tell others about Jesus. Well, let's stand and get started!*

### Slides 3-29 : Praise Song: "Let's Get Started"<sup>27</sup>

### Slide 30: Unit Bible Verse

**(Worship leader):** *By now, I am sure most of you can say our VBS Scripture from memory. If you know the verse, close your eyes and say it from memory. If you still need a little help, read it aloud with me.*

***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).***

*I'm so proud of you for learning this verse! Continue memorizing verses from the Bible. Well, are you ready to sing? Stand and let's join our praise team as we sing our John 3:16 song!*

### Slides 31-64: Scripture Song: "This is the Way God Loved"<sup>28</sup>

**Pledges**—Each day, the children holding the flags and the Bible will sit on the front row. During the song, ask the children to take their places on the platform with the flags and the Bible.

### Slide 65: Pledge to the American Flag

**Pledge to the American Flag**—**(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now stand and pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. **ATTENTION (child stands straight beside the flag), SALUTE (child picks up the flag and places the end of the pole in the center of his or her stomach, holding the flag with two hands), PLEDGE (child lowers the flag so it is visible while all say the pledge).*** When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the flag and place it in the stand. The child remains standing by the flag until all the pledges have been given.

---

<sup>25</sup> "The Great Adventure," written by Steven Curtis Chapman.

<sup>26</sup> "Summer, a Giraffe and a Harmonica" video by Bob Singleton, God's Kids Worship.

<sup>27</sup> "Let's Get Started," written by Martha Bolton & Bob Singleton (c) 2009 Sky Taylor Music, ASCAP; Agnes Day Music, BMI; admin by Agnes Day Music, BMI. CCLI # 5543557

<sup>28</sup> "This is the Way God Loved," by Martha Bolton & Bob Singleton (c) 2009 Sky Taylor Music, ASCAP; Agnes Day Music, BMI; admin by Agnes Day Music, BMI. CCLI # 5625389

### **Slide 66: Pledge to the Christian Flag**

**Pledge to the Christian Flag—(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now say the pledge to the Christian Flag. ATTENTION (child stands straight beside the flag), SALUTE (child picks up the flag and places the end of the pole in the center of his or her stomach, holding the flag with two hands), PLEDGE (child lowers the flag so it is visible while all say the pledge).* When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the flag and place it in the stand. The child remains standing by the flag until all pledges have been given.

### **Slide 67: Pledge to the Bible**

**Pledge to the Bible—(Worship leader):** Say, *Let us now say the pledge to the Bible, God's holy word. ATTENTION (child stands with the Bible in one hand down to the side of his or her body), SALUTE (child lifts the Bible to waist position and holds the Bible with two hands), PLEDGE (child straightens arms so Bible is visible).* When the pledge is complete, the child will lower the Bible and return to sit on the front row for the remainder of the service.

### **Slide 68-84: Worship Song: "Oh, How I Love Jesus"<sup>29</sup>**

**(Worship Leader):** *Let's sing our song about how much Jesus loves us! Stand with me.*

### **Slides 85-87: Mission Story and Pictures**

Today our mission story highlights the ministry of Chaplain Hoffman and his wife and the Oil Patch Ministry.

## **Stories from the Old Patch**

In August of 2013, we felt a definite call to the oilfield. Without a background in the oil industry, we didn't have clear direction how to minister. Yet, the words, "individual care in a big world" came to mind. Immediately, we began traveling the surrounding areas. We met people, developed relationships and simply responded to needs. What began as a ministry 10-15 miles from home, mushroomed to cover the entire state of Texas.

Wrangler Trucking Company was one of our early contacts. The first time we walked through the door, we met a man named Charlie. His wife had had a stroke. It paralyzed the left side of her body. We visited her in the hospital. Then, local churches became involved by providing casseroles and personal care when she was released from the hospital.

On another day, we walked in and heard someone say, "Hey, our chaplains are here!" Moments later they shared how they had twenty-two trucks but only had four drivers. Bobby said, "Please pray for drivers." We joined hands and prayed! Three days later all twenty-two trucks were running.

### **Slide 88: Prayer**

Pray for the ministry in the oil patch. *Thank you, God, for VBS. Thank you, God, for all the children who came today. Thank you for sending Jesus. Help us to know you better and tell other*

---

<sup>29</sup> "Oh, How I Love Jesus," arranged and new material by Bob Singleton (c) 2002 Agnes Day Music, BMI.  
CCLI # 4596756

*people about you. We love you. Amen.*

Make necessary announcements. Give a report of the offering collected (if possible). Thank the children and teachers for giving money to help with the \_\_\_\_\_ project. Thank the children and teachers for a great week at VBS!

**Worship Leader:** *(At this time, the children who have been chosen to receive the offering should take their baskets and stand by the exit doors) Today as you leave, there will be children at the door with baskets for your offerings. This week the money that you bring each day will be given to the Mary Hill Davis offering. If you choose to give the money to another ministry, explain to the children how their offerings will be used.*

**Slide 89: VBS Theme Picture**

**Recessional and Offering:** "The Great Adventure"<sup>30</sup>. Play this song as the children exit. Dismiss the children by grade level and remind them to use the doors assigned to them to exit.

---

<sup>30</sup> "The Great Adventure," written by Steven Curtis Chapman.