



Vacation Bible School Worship Adventure Script

VBS Theme: *Wilderness Mountain Adventure— Trekking Through the Truths of God's Word*

Suggested Elements of Worship for Children (Completed Grades 1-6)

Scripture: Each day the Scripture passage chosen 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. Departments are encouraged to review the Scripture each day.

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 suggested songs may be found at www.godskidsworship.com. The suggested songs are *Be Still and Know*, *Give Me Jesus*, *Shout to the Lord*, *I'll Praise You*, *Jesus Loves Me*, *Without You*, *Jesus*, *Jesus Messiah* and *You are God Alone*.

The songs are recorded using children's voices and are easy to sing-along. Preview the songs and see free streaming rehearsal videos for song leaders and praise teams. Lyrics may be downloaded at no cost. The songs are available in stereo and split track as video, mp3 files, and for all popular presentation programs.

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. The links or YouTube® videos may be embedded in emails, websites or Facebook® pages.

Mission Story: Missions should be an important part of VBS. Children should hear how others in the United States and across the world are telling others about Jesus. Each day the children will hear a mission story. The story may be presented in the following ways: (1) someone may read or tell the story during the joint worship; (2) the mission story may be told in the individual classrooms during the rotating activities. Either one of these options can be effective. The mission story and pictures may also be found as a resource item for each age group.

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. The offering

may be used for a local mission project, or it may be sent to your state convention office to be used in other mission efforts. The offering may be taken during the joint 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 4, the plan of salvation may be presented to the children. Please refer to the *Worship Adventure Teaching Resource: Talking to Children About Salvation* for suggestions on presenting the plan of salvation to children (also included on pages 16-18 of this document). See other suggestions in the joint worship material for Day 4.

Suggested Order of Worship

Welcome and Introduction of VBS Theme

Praise Song

VBS Scripture

Worship Song

Pledges

Worship Song

Mission Story

Prayer

Announcements

Recessional and Offering

The suggestions given are provided as a guide only. The elements of worship may be changed to fit your individual needs. A PowerPoint® presentation is provided on the BaptistWay Press® website, www.baptistwaypress.org. This script may also be used without the PowerPoint®.

Day 1: The Bible is From God

Slide 1: Theme of VBS

Processional: (Music playing as children are entering worship center) "**I'll Praise You**" or another upbeat praise song.

Welcome (Worship leader): Say, *Welcome to VBS! This week, our mountain adventure will take you to some places you may have never been! We will also be trekking through the Bible to learn how God wants us to live. Our theme is "Wilderness Mountain Adventure—Trekking Through the Truths of God's Word."*

Slide 2: *Today, we will learn that "The Bible Is from God!" Let's put on our hiking boots and backpack and begin our trek up the mountain!*

Slides 3: Praise Song

Suggested Praise Song: "I'll Praise You"

Slide 4: VBS Scripture

VBS Scripture (Worship leader): Say, *Each day we will read this verse from the Book of Psalm. Psalm is in the Poetry division of the Old Testament. Listen as I read the verse. By the middle of the week, we should know this verse by memory!*

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does (Psalm 33:4).

This verse says the word of the Lord is right and true. Does anyone know what the word of the Lord is? That's right! It's the Bible. The Bible is right and true. Isn't that exciting to know! God loves you so much! Now, let's all read the Bible verse together. (Read verse.) Are you ready to sing? Stand up, and let's join our praise team as we sing!

Slides 5: Worship Song

Suggested Worship Song: "Shout to the Lord"

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 6: 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). Say, "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 7: 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 8: 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 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 9: Worship Song

Suggested Worship Song: "Give Me Jesus"

Slide 10-14: Mission Story

Introduce mission story: Each day at this time, we will hear a mission stories about Hurricane Harvey that hit the Gulf Coast in 2017. First Baptist Church, Rockport, Texas quickly became a relief center for people in Rockport and surrounding cities. The stories you will hear this week are true stories. You will hear how God is at work in this place.

Hurricane Harvey 2017

As people across the United States saw the damage that Hurricane Harvey did to towns along the Texas coast, many sent supplies and money to help. First Baptist Church of Rockport had one end of its building knocked down. When some people saw photos and news reports about the damage, they sent their donations straight to the church. Many homes were completely destroyed. Other homes were damaged too much to live in. until they could be repaired. Even the homes that just had a little damage did not have electricity, water, or bathrooms that worked for at least two weeks. Because the rest of the church building could be used, First Baptist Church, Rockport, Texas quickly became a place where people could get food, baby supplies, cleaning supplies, clothes, hygiene items, and emergency supplies.

Huge eighteen wheelers delivered supplies to the church. Volunteers unloaded boxes and prepared “relief bags” with food that did not have to be cooked or kept cold. Then, other volunteers drove through the community and gave the relief bags to many people in need. First Baptist Church of Cleburne, TX even helped Texas Baptist Men deliver an entire airplane full of cleaning supplies! Volunteers helped fill buckets with sponges, rubber gloves, paper towels, cleaners, trash bags, mosquito spray and other useful things. Many people and families were happy to receive one of these cleaning buckets.

Volunteers from many Texas Baptist churches came to First Baptist to cook meals for anyone who was hungry. Other volunteers helped homeowners chop up and move fallen trees. One Baptist church sent little bags with snacks and small plush animals for volunteers to give to children. A kind lady from Arizona sent a truck full of pet food, leashes, treats, dog beds and other things to help pet owners take care of their animals. For her twelfth birthday, one thoughtful girl asked her friends to bring donations for hurricane victims to her party instead of bringing her gifts. She sent those donations to First Baptist, Rockport. A nine-year old boy in Dallas set up a lemonade stand to raise money. He sent 300 one dollar bills to help people in need!

In October, First Baptist Church, Boerne, TX brought 85 of their church members to Rockport to volunteer for a weekend. They usually have projects in their own community where families can work together, but this time, they decided to travel three hours away from home to help people in Rockport instead. They spent Saturday working cleaning up debris and helping move trees and tree branches to the edge of streets so that they can be picked up by waste removal trucks. Then on Sunday, they attended worship services at First Baptist, Rockport and served lunch to the whole church!

It is important to remember when we struggle and have hard times, God is still present with us. He sends help and encouragement in many ways.

Pray: *Thank you, God for churches and people who help others. Thank you, God, for being with us always. Thank you, God, for giving us what we need.*

Worship Leader: (At this time, the children chosen to receive the offering should take their baskets and stand by the exit doors.) *In your class today, you will hear the story of God giving Moses the Ten Commandments. Have a great time meeting new friends and learning more about the Bible! 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 _____.* (Explain this ministry to the children so they will understand what their money will help buy)

Prayer Time: *Thank you, God, for this first day of VBS. Thank you for all the children who came today. We pray that new friends will come tomorrow. Thank you for giving us the Bible. Amen.*

Slide 15: VBS Theme

Suggested Recessional and Offering: "Shout to the Lord" (Play this song as the children exit) Dismiss the children by grade level and remind them to use the doors assigned to them (See page 2 for explanation about offering) to exit.

Day 2: The Bible Helps Us Live

Slide 1: Theme of VBS

Processional (Music playing as children are entering worship center) "**Without You Jesus**"

Welcome (Worship leader): Say, *Welcome to VBS! Did you have a fun time yesterday? If this is your first day of VBS, raise your hand. Wow! Thank you, children, for inviting your friends. Keep up the good work! Our theme this week is "Wilderness Mountain Adventure—Trekking Through the Truths of God's Word".*

Slide 2: *Today, we will learn that the Bible helps us live. The Bible is an important book. It tells us everything we need to know! Get your boots and backpack! Let's begin our trek up the mountain!*

Slides 3: Praise Song

Suggested Praise Song: "**Without You, Jesus**"

Slide 4: VBS Scripture

VBS Scripture (Worship leader): Say, *Each day we will read this verse from the book of Psalm. Psalm is in the Poetry division of the Old Testament. Read this verse with me!*

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does (Psalm 33:4).

Are you ready to sing? Stand up, and let's join our praise team as we sing!

Slides 5: Worship Song

Suggested Worship Song: "**You are God Alone**"

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 6: 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 7: 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 8: 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 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 9: Worship Song

Suggested Worship Song: "Be Still and Know"

Slide 10-11: Mission Story

Introduce Mission Study: Emily and Ashlyn had to leave their home in Rockport. When they returned home, they found that their home was not badly damaged. They decided they needed to go to their church and start helping others. Listen and find out how they helped people in the community.

Emily and Ashlyn Help Others

Two weeks after Hurricane Harvey hit land, sisters Emily and Ashlyn returned to Rockport, Texas with their mom. Their dad had returned days earlier to check on their property and begin helping with repair work. Emily, age 10, and Ashlyn, age 7, were relieved that their home and their family's business didn't have much damage. Emily remembers that seeing all the damaged buildings and trees was "almost like a dream." Their mom had trouble finding her way around town because the streets looked so different. It was hard to even know where to turn, without street signs or traffic signs!

The first place Emily, Ashlyn and their mom went after they checked on their home, was their church, First Baptist, Rockport. Ashlyn said they "came by to see if we could help." Mrs. Cyndi, the volunteer donation center coordinator, had the perfect job for them. People from many different states had been sending boxes of donations, including hygiene items. Emily, Ashlyn and their mom began coming every afternoon to pack clear zip top bags with small bottles of shampoo, conditioner and lotion, bars of soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant. When they ran out of supplies to pack in the bags, the girls helped unpack boxes of donations to find what they needed. Some of the girls' friends also came and helped, so the girls made a game of trying to pack the best-looking bag of supplies to be given away. Their mom said that by the time they left every day, "We smelled fabulous!"

When people came by the church needing help, they were given food, baby items, cleaning supplies and hygiene bags. Emily and Ashlyn had packed bags especially for girls, for boys, for teenagers, for men and women. Emily says, "We helped make sure everyone had things to go home with, because some people lost everything."

Emily and Ashlyn's mom said that volunteering at the church helped their family as much as it helped others. She said, "It was a great learning experience for us, to give our time and energy helping others."

Pray: *Thank you, God, for Emily, Ashlyn, and their parents. Thank you for their willingness to find ways to help. Please help us know what we can do to help others.*

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.) *As you go to your class today, you will hear the story of how Jesus used the Bible to make good choices.*

Today as you leave, children will be at the door with baskets for your offerings. This week the money that you bring each day will be given to _____. (Explain this ministry to the children so they will understand what their money will help to buy)

Prayer Time: *Thank you, God, for VBS. Thank you, God, for all the children who came today. We pray that new friends will come tomorrow. Thank you for protecting us. We love you. Amen.*

Slide 12: VBS Theme

Suggested Recessional and Offering: "You Are God Alone" (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: The Bible Tells of Jesus

Slide 1: VBS Theme

Processional (Music playing as children are entering worship center) **"I'll Praise You"**

Welcome (Worship leader): Say, *Welcome to the third day of VBS! Have you had fun this week? If this is your first day of VBS, raise your hand. Wow! Thank you, children, for inviting your friends. Keep up the good work!*

Slide 2: *Today, we will learn that the Bible tells us about Jesus. Jesus taught us many lessons about how we should love others and love God. You will have fun learning today! Are you ready to sing? Let's go!*

Slides 3: Praise Song

Suggested Praise Song: "I'll Praise You"

Slide 4: VBS Scripture

VBS Scripture (Worship leader): *Do you have our Bible verse by memory? I will say a phrase and you repeat it.*

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does (Psalm 33:4).

You should all know this verse by memory now! Now, let's all say the Bible verse together (without looking at the words!). Are you ready to sing? Stand up, and let's join our praise team as we sing!

Slides 5: Worship Song

Suggested Worship Song: "Jesus Messiah"

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 6: 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 7: 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 8: 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 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 9: Worship Song

Suggested Worship Song: "Give Me Jesus"

Slide 10-13: Mission Story

Introduce the mission story: Texas Baptist Men have helped many people in Texas for many years. After Hurricane Harvey hit the gulf coast, they were there to help! Listen how they helped and are still helping the people in Rockport.

Texas Baptist Men Ready to Help!

Texas Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Ministry is a long name for a big group of volunteers who are ready to help people when they need help! After Hurricane Harvey, Texas Baptist Men (TBM) began helping in many different cities along the Texas coast, including Victoria, Corpus Christi, Houston, Angleton, Liberty, Orange, and Rockport.

In Rockport, Texas Baptist Men set up a temporary home inside First Baptist Church. Sunday School rooms become bedrooms for their volunteers during the week, with air mattresses in every available room. Using the church kitchen, a TBM food team prepares meals for volunteers. Before their Disaster Relief group even arrived in Rockport, TBM sent a portable shower trailer so that any volunteer group working out of the church would be able to take showers after long hot days of hard work.

TBM groups used chain saws and skid steer front loaders to cut up and remove trees and big limbs from people's yards. They also had groups doing "mud work," which means they were taking out wet walls, insulation, furniture and everything else that needed to be removed from flooded homes. Another job that TBM groups did was removing tall piles of debris, or all the loose pieces of damaged buildings, fences and furniture. These piles of debris are usually taller than the volunteers who are removing them!

The Disaster Relief Ministry teams are made up of men and women who love God and want to help struggling people in Jesus' name. They know that many people do not go to church, or even know that Jesus loves them. By helping others, volunteers want to spread hope and show people that Jesus cares for them. Some people may begin attending church or even choose to trust in Jesus because of the love of the Christians who are helping them.

Pray: Thank you, God for the Texas Baptist Men Disaster Relief volunteers. Thank you for all the people they have been able to help. Please continue to use these volunteers to show your love to people in need.

_____. (Explain this ministry to the children so they will understand what their money will help to buy.)

Prayer Time: *Thank you, God, for VBS. Thank you, God, for all the children who came today. Thank you for the Bible. We love you. Amen.*

Slide 14: VBS Theme

Recessional and Offering: "Jesus Messiah" 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 4: The Bible Promises a Savior

Slide 1: VBS Theme

Processional (Music playing as children are entering worship center) "**Without You, Jesus**"

Welcome (Worship leader): Say, *Welcome to the fourth day of VBS! Have you had a good time? Do we have new children today?*

Slide 2: *Today, we will learn that the Bible promised that Jesus would come to save everyone. 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? Let's go!*

Slides 3: Praise Song

Suggested Praise Song: "**Without You, Jesus**"

Slide 4: VBS Scripture

VBS Scripture (Worship leader): Say, *Today, let's say our verse from memory. Close your eyes and see if you remember it!*

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does (Psalm 33:4).

The Bible is right and true. Now, let's all say the Bible verse together. Are you ready to sing? Stand up, and let's join our praise team as we sing!

Slides 5: Worship Song

Suggested Praise Song: "**Jesus Loves Me**"

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 6: 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.

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Slides 9: Worship Song

Suggested Worship Song: "Shout to the Lord"

Slide 10-11: Mission Story or *Talk to the Children about Salvation (see optional idea below)

Introduce Mission Story: Today our mission story is about two little girls who wanted to help their community after the hurricane. Their home was damaged but not as much as other homes. Listen as I tell you what they did to help others.

Emily and Ashlyn Help Others

Two weeks after Hurricane Harvey hit land, sisters Emily and Ashlyn returned to Rockport, Texas with their mom. Their dad had returned days earlier to check on their property and begin helping with repair work. Emily, age 10, and Ashlyn, age 7, were relieved that their home and their family's business didn't have much damage. Emily remembers that seeing all the damaged buildings and trees was "almost like a dream." Their mom had trouble finding her way around town because the streets looked so different. It was hard to even know where to turn, without street signs or traffic signs!

The first place Emily, Ashlyn and their mom went after they checked on their home, was their church, First Baptist, Rockport. Ashlyn said they "came by to see if we could help." Mrs. Cyndi, the volunteer donation center coordinator, had the perfect job for them. People from many different states had been sending boxes of donations, including hygiene items. Emily, Ashlyn and their mom began coming every afternoon to pack clear zip top bags with small bottles of shampoo, conditioner and lotion, bars of soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant. When they ran out of supplies to pack in the bags, the girls helped unpack boxes of donations to find what they needed. Some of the girls' friends also came and helped, so the girls made a game of trying to pack the best-looking bag of supplies to be given away. Their mom said that by the time they left every day, "We smelled fabulous!"

When people came by the church needing help, they were given food, baby items, cleaning supplies and hygiene bags. Emily and Ashlyn had packed bags especially for girls, for boys, for teenagers, for men and women. Emily says, "We helped make sure everyone had things to go home with, because some people lost everything."

Emily and Ashlyn's mom said that volunteering at the church helped their family as much as it helped others. She said, "It was a great learning experience for us, to give our time and energy helping others."

Pray: Thank you, God, for Emily, Ashlyn, and their parents. Thank you for their willingness to find ways to help. Please help us know what we can do to help others.

***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 "Jesus Loves Me" again. They will give their offerings as they leave. Please refer to **Joint Worship Teaching Resource: Talking to Children About Salvation** for guidance in sharing the plan of salvation with children. The resource is available from www.baptistwaypress.org and it may be found on pages 16-18 of this document.

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 _____. (Explain the ministry to the children so they will understand what their money will help to buy.)

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 12: VBS Theme

Recessional and Offering: "Shout to the Lord" 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.

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: The Bible Is for Telling Others

Slide 1: VBS Theme

Processional (music playing as children are entering the worship center): **"I'll Praise You."**

Welcome (Worship leader): Say, *Welcome to the last day of VBS! Have you had a good time this week? Let's show your teachers how much we appreciate all they have done to help you have a fun week.* (Clap)

Slide 2: *Today, we will learn that the Bible helps us know how to tell others about Jesus. Some of you have brought friends to VBS this week. You shared with them that you were having a great time at VBS, and then you invited them to come with you to hear about Jesus. Well, it's time to sing. Let's go!*

Slides 3: Praise Song

Suggested Praise Song: "I'll Praise You"

Slide 4: VBS Scripture

VBS Scripture (Worship leader): Say, *I know you know our verse now! Let's say it all together!*

For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does (Psalm 33:4).

Are you ready to sing? Stand up, and let's join our praise team as we sing!

Slides 5: Worship Song

Suggested Worship Song: "Shout to the Lord"

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 6: 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 7: 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 8: 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 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 9: Worship Song

Suggested Worship Song: "You Are God Alone"

Slide 10-12: Mission Story

Introduce the Mission Story: Sierra and her grandmother's house was flooded. Everything was destroyed. Listen to find out how people came to help them.

Helping Sierra and her Grandmother Patsy

When nine-year old Sierra and her grandmother, Patsy, returned to Rockport after Hurricane Harvey, they could not live in their home, which had been flooded. Twenty-five inches of water had filled their home. The water had ruined all their furniture, and many clothes, toys and other things. Even their refrigerator had been knocked over on its side! Powerful winds had ripped all the trees in their yard out of the ground. Sierra said, "It looked like a big bad giant came and stomped on everything and made a great big giant mess." Patsy and Sierra spent several nights sleeping in a tent in their yard until they could find another place to stay.

Many of their family members, friends from church, and volunteer groups from other towns came to help clean up their house and yard. They cleaned out debris, wet and muddy furniture and other belongings from Patsy and Sierra's home. A crew of volunteers from churches in Comanche, TX (including First Baptist) came one week to remove the wet walls from Patsy and Sierra's home and replace them with dry, clean wallboard. Then the Comanche crew came back later to put a new roof on the house!

Patsy had been overwhelmed by the kindness and giving spirit of so many people. People from her church and community offered help before she even asked. One church friend brought Patsy and Sierra new beds. Another friend brought Sierra toys to help replace the ones she lost. A group of volunteers from Dallas Baptist University gave Patsy money to buy materials to help repair her house.

For Sierra, the saddest thing about the hurricane was that she lost her two cats, JoJo and Sassy. She misses them very much. She was also sad to lose all her toys. One good thing that has happened since the storm is that Sierra made a new friend, Emma, from the Comanche volunteer group. Sierra wants people to know that "God has helped us through everything." Patsy agrees, "(Hurricane) Harvey came to destroy, but God had other plans."

Pray: *Thank you, God, for Patsy and Sierra. Thank you for taking care of them. Thank you, for all the people who helped and encouraged them.*

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.) *I'm so glad that you came to VBS this week! If you don't have a church to attend each Sunday, we want to invite you to bring your family on Sunday. I hope you heard this week that Jesus loves you very much!*

Today as you leave, children will be at the door with baskets for your offerings. This week the money that you bring each day will be given to _____. (Explain the ministry to the children so they will understand what their money will help to buy.)

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 13: VBS Theme

Suggested Recessional and Offering: "You Are God Alone" 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.