



Vacation Bible School Joint Worship Rally

VBS Theme—The Big Sea Adventure: Exploring the Depths of God’s Love 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. Remember to obtain permission to print the words of copyrighted songs from CCLI. 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. Music may also be included in each department during the large group time or as a separate rotation activity. The children could work on the same songs that will be used during the joint worship time. Sign language for key words or appropriate movement could be added to help the children remember the words to the songs.

Drama: Using drama is also a great medium to use with children. A drama team composed of children who have completed fifth and sixth grades or junior high students could be formed prior to VBS to work on the drama. The children could perform the drama as a live production or the drama could be videotaped and shown each day at the appropriate time in the worship service. Involving children in worship at an early age is a great opportunity for children to begin seeing that they can also lead in worship.

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 **Joint Worship Teaching Resource: Talking to Children about Salvation** for suggestions on presenting the plan of salvation to children. See other suggestions in the joint worship material for Day 4.

Suggested Order of Worship

Processional (music as the children come in)

Welcome and Introduction of VBS Theme

Praise Song VBS

Scripture

Praise Song

Pledges

Prayer Song

Drama

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 script of the suggested Joint Worship material is also provided in PowerPoint®. The words to the songs may be inserted on the appropriate screens of the PowerPoint® presentation if permission is granted to your church.

Songs and Sources

“Deep, Deep,” Crazy Praise Volumes 1 & 2 songbook; Product code: 4575708377 or UPC/EAN: 645757083779 or Crazy Praise split-track accompaniment CD, product code: 4575708373, UPC/EAN: 645757083731; both available from www.worshipmusic.com.

“Dive,” written by Stephen C. Chapman, from CD Big Songs for Little Kids, Brentwood Records.

“Every Move I Make,” words and music by David Ruis; from CD I Could Sing of Your Love Forever (Kids); product code: TXD40333, UPC/EAN: 724354033322; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

“I Could Sing of Your Love Forever,” from *CD I Could Sing of Your Love Forever (Kids)*, words and music by Martin Smith, product code: TXD40333, UPC/EAN: 724354033322; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

“Jesus, Draw Me Close,” from *CD America’s 25 Favorite Praise and Worship Choruses for Kids, Volume 3*; product code: 8306106452; UPC/EAN: 083061064525; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

“Let Everything That Has Breath,” words and music by Matt Redman; from *CD I Could Sing of Your Love Forever (Kids)*; product code: TXD40333, UPC/EAN: 724354033322; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

“Thy Word,” from *CD America’s 25 Favorite Praise and Worship Choruses for Kids*; product code: 8306104672; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

“We Fall Down,” words and music by Chris Tomlin; from *CD I Could Sing of Your Love Forever (Kids)*; product code: TXD40333; UPC/EAN: 724354033322; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

Day 1: God's Love Is Caring

Slide 1: Theme of VBS

Processional— (Music playing as children are entering worship center) **“Dive”**¹

Welcome (Worship leader): Say, *Welcome to VBS! We will have fun learning about God's love. Our theme is “The Big Sea Adventure: Exploring the Depths of God's Love.” You will learn about the ocean, play fun games, meet new friends, and hear exciting Bible stories. Slide 2: Today, we will learn that “God's Love Is Caring”! Get your scuba gear, wet suit, and oxygen tank ready! We're about to dive into the ocean to explore how deep God's love is for you!*

Slide 3: Praise Song

Praise Song— **“I Could Sing of Your Love Forever”**² or **“Deep, Deep”**³

Slide 4: VBS Scripture

VBS Scripture (Worship leader): Say, *There are two verses in the Bible that we will read each day at this time. These verses are found in the New Testament in the Book of Romans. It is one of Paul's letters. Listen as I read Romans 8:38-39.*

38For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These verses tell us that nothing can separate us from God's love! Isn't that exciting to know! God loves you so much! He places his loving arms around you each day and never leaves you! Now, let's all read the Bible verse together. Are you ready to sing? Stand up, and let's join our praise team as we sing!

Slide 5: Praise Song

Praise Song— **“Every Move I Make”**⁴ or **“Let Everything That Has Breath”**⁵

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.

¹ “Dive,” written by Stephen C. Chapman, from CD Big Songs for Little Kids, Brentwood Records.

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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).** **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 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 9: Prayer Song

Prayer Song— “We Fall Down”⁶ or “Thy Word”⁷

Drama—Each day, our drama team will present a drama. The drama takes place on the beach. Watch as our story unfolds! (The drama may be presented live or videotaped prior to VBS. See separate drama script for Day 1, pages 8 and 9.)

Worship Leader: (At this time, the children chosen to receive the offering should take their baskets and stand by the exit doors) *Thank you, drama team. We can't wait to see what happens tomorrow! God cares for each of you. As you go to your class today, you will hear the story of Noah and how God cared for Noah, his family, and the animals. (Or, as you learned*

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⁷ “Thy Word,” from CD America's 25 Favorite Praise and Worship Choruses for Kids; Product code: 8306104672; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

today in your class, God cared for Noah, his family, and the animals.) 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 this ministry to the children so they will understand what their money will help to 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 caring for us. Amen.*

Slide 10: VBS Theme

Recessional and Offering—**“Dive.”**⁸ (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.

⁸ “Dive,” written by Steven C. Chapman, from CD Big Songs for Little Kids, Brentwood Records.

VBS Joint Worship Drama Script

Characters:

Cody – Cody is in elementary school. He is somewhat troubled because his dad is serving in the military in Iraq. Cody’s mom wants him to become a junior lifeguard to get his mind off his dad.

Ethan – Ethan is Cody’s younger brother. Cody’s mom sends him along.

Callie – Callie is in school with Cody. She is very confident and a little sassy.

Rich – He is a high school senior and a trainer for the junior lifeguards.

Abby – She is a junior in high school and a trainer for the junior lifeguards.

Mom – Mom is a strong and fun person who loves her family and is attempting to balance home and work in the absence of her husband.

Drama Script: Day 1—God’s Love Is Caring

Scene begins with the count down and logo graphic. The scene should begin like Baywatch, with the cast running on the beach.

Scene 1 Cody’s voice in a voice-over – *(Pictures of each person in Cody’s family shown.)* Hi, my name is Cody and I am nine years old. This is my mom. She takes care of our family. This is my dad. He is a soldier. He is my hero. Oh, and this is my brother, Ethan. He is a real pain. Why did God make little brothers? This is our house. We are kind of a normal family, except for one thing. Our dad is not at home. He is away. He is serving our country in Iraq. We miss him a lot. Today is the day I have been waiting for. It is the first day of junior lifeguard training. I can’t wait to save lives at the pool.

Mom – Cody, get up! It’s time for breakfast. *(Cody rolls over in the bed, pulls his head under the covers, and groans.)* Cody, it is time for you to go to junior lifeguard training. *(Cody sits directly up in the bed with wild hair, and then he rolls his eyes back in his head and falls backwards.)* Cody, we have only thirty minutes to get ready. *(Cody rushes downstairs.)*

Scene 2

(Ethan is sitting at the table eating breakfast when Cody arrives; Ethan is holding a sausage like a light saber; add the sound of the light saber.)

Ethan – (Ethan says this phrase in a big voice.) Ha, Ha, Ha, I am your father.

Cody – Stop. You are so irritating.

Ethan – (*Ethan continues with the light saber.*) The “Force” is with me. Ha, ha, ha.

Cody – Mom, have you heard from dad? Is he okay?

Mom - Oh, I got an e-mail from him last night. I put it on the refrigerator for you. (*Cody races over to the refrigerator and brings the e-mail back to the table; Mom approaches the table with more food.*) Why don’t you read the e-mail to your brother? (*Ethan holds out the sausage like he is forcing Cody.*)

(*Cody looks at the paper but hears his dad’s voice.*)

Dad – Hey, my big guys! I miss you a lot. It is very hot, dry, and windy here. I saw a giant sand spider today. I wish I could send it back to you. It would be a great show-and-tell. This afternoon at the market I saw two Iraqi brothers about your age. It really made me miss you. I gave them some of the gum you sent me in the care package. I wanted to hug them like I would hug you. Help your mom. I will e-mail you soon. Love, Dad.

(*The boys look sad.*)

Mom – Hey, guys, dad is safe, and we are okay. Let’s have some smiles. I have something to tell you. With your dad being a soldier in Iraq, we are a little short on money. We are going to have to really cut our spending, or we may have to sell our house and move to an apartment. I am going to try to get a job. I have several interviews this week.

Ethan – Who will take care of us?

Mom – I have been thinking about that. You know we don’t go to church much, but when I was a kid I went to a Vacation Bible School every summer. I remember one summer we talked about how much God loves us. I think God will take care of us.

Cody – How will God take care of us?

Mom – He takes care of us in many ways. He gives us food, clothes, a house, and a family. One more thing, I called Rich and Abby at the junior lifeguard training. They said that Ethan could join you, even though he is too young.

(*Freeze with Cody in shock and Ethan’s voice in the background saying, “The Force is with me. The Force is with me.”*)

Day 2: God's Love Is Protecting

Slide 1: Theme of VBS

Processional (Music playing as children are entering worship center) **“Dive”**⁹

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 “The Big Sea Adventure: Exploring the Depths of God’s Love.”* **Slide 2:** *Today, we will learn that God’s love is protecting. God protects each one of you! Get your scuba gear, wet suit, and oxygen tank ready! Let’s dive into the ocean to explore how deep God’s love is for you!*

Slide 3: Praise Song

Praise Song – **“I Could Sing of Your Love Forever”**¹⁰ or **“Deep, Deep”**¹¹

Slide 4: VBS Scripture

VBS Scripture (Worship leader): Say, *Yesterday we read two verses in the Bible. These verses are found in the New Testament in the Book of Romans. It is one of Paul’s letters. Listen as I read Romans 8:38-39.*

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These verses tell us that nothing can separate us from God’s love! Isn’t that exciting to know! God loves you so much! He places his loving arms around you each day and never leaves you! Are you ready to sing now? Stand with me as we join our praise team in singing, “Every Move I Make I Make With You.”

Slide 5: Praise Song

Praise Song— **“Every Move I Make”**¹²

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.

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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 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 9: Prayer Song

Prayer Song— “We Fall Down”¹³ or “Jesus, Draw Me Close”¹⁴

Drama—*It's time for our drama! Let's see what Cody and Ethan are up to today!* (The drama may be presented live or videotaped prior to VBS. See separate drama script for Day 2, pages 13 and 14.)

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.) *Thank you, drama team. Callie and Cody are learning how to protect people who are swimming in the ocean. They have to take many tests in order to learn to protect us! We can't wait to see what happens tomorrow! God protects you every day! Wow! What an awesome God we have! As you go to your class today,*

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¹⁴ “Jesus, Draw Me Close,” from CD America's 25 Favorite Praise and Worship Choruses for Kids, Vol. 3; Product code: 8306106452; UPC/EAN: 083061064525; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

you will hear the story of how God protected Moses and the Israelites from the Egyptians. (Or, as you learned today in your class, God protected Moses and the Israelites from the Egyptians.)

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 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 10: VBS Theme

Recessional and Offering—“Dive.”¹⁵ (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.

¹⁵ “Dive,” written by Steven C. Chapman, from CD Big Songs for Little Kids, Brentwood Records

Drama Script: Day 2—God’s Love Is Protecting

This day begins the same way as Day 1, with the introduction and the freeze of Cody’s face.

Scene 1

Cody’s voice in a voice-over - (*Freeze remains on screen.*) I can’t believe it. Little Lord Vader is going with me to junior lifeguard training. I am such a loser. My dad is a soldier in Iraq. My mom will have to find a job. We could lose our home. Now, little Lord Vader is going to ruin my day.

Scene 2

(*Cody and Ethan get out of the car at the junior lifeguard training.*)

Mom – Bye, boys. Take care of each other.

(*Ethan gets out of the car with a string tied around a “Ken” doll. He drags it behind him into the training. Cody looks horrified. Cody goes in and finds a seat near the pool with the other kids.*)

Scene 3

Abby – (*Blows the whistle and sounds a little gruff.*) Attention, sea slugs! My name is Coach Abby. It is time to get started. You have been selected to be a part of an elite team that will help keep the pools and beaches of our neighborhood safe. The next few days we are going to put you to the test.

(*Ethan is standing in the background dropping Ken into the water with the string and pulling him out. Abby goes over, removes Ken from the water, and makes Ethan sit down.*)

Rich – (*Folds his arms and speaks with authority. He looks at Abby and Ethan and smiles.*) Your main job is not to save people but to protect them from themselves. When you follow certain rules and you help other people follow the rules, you will be protecting people.

Abby – We are going to begin with some simple tests. The first test is a speed test. You will swim from one end of the pool to the other in a timed trial. Who wants to go first?

Callie – (*Raising her hands and jumping up and down.*) Me! Me! Me!

Abby – Okay, Callie, you can go first. Rich will time you. Take your mark. Start!

(*Callie races in fast motion up and down the pool. People stand there looking shocked. Show other kids racing and doing some silly swims. Cody is drying off when Rich walks up.*)

Rich – Good job in your try-out today.

Cody – Well, I did not do as well as Callie. She must be part dolphin.

Rich – Have you heard from your dad lately?

Cody – Yeah, I read an e-mail from him today.

Rich – I admire your dad. He is protecting people in Iraq and people in our country. He is a real hero, but I know it is tough to have him halfway around the world.

Cody – I worry about him. I want him to come home safe and soon. Mom will have to get a job to help take care of the family. I am worried about her.

Rich – Cody, does your family go to church anywhere?

Cody – No, we never really have the time.

Rich – I have found that at church you meet people to help you through tough times, and you learn important truths from the Bible. The one that I remember now is, “Turn, O LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.” That means that God’s love wants to help us and protect us. I believe he wants to help protect you, your family, and your dad.

Abby – (*Abby gets everybody’s attention.*) Great job today! Tomorrow, we will demonstrate ways to save a person. Get some sleep and read up on your safety manuals.

Rich – Remember, it is your job to protect people before they get in trouble. Following the rules protects people.

Scene 4

(Ethan and Cody go back to the car with “Ken” in tow. Mom picks them up from the lifeguard training.)

Cody – Mom, how did your interviews go?

Mom – They were okay. Maybe I will hear something in a day or two. There is something I want to tell you. I received a call today from your dad’s commander. Your dad and three soldiers were late returning from patrol. They are not sure where they are. I am sure everything is okay.

Cody – (*Cody stares out the window of the car and says the verse to himself like a prayer.*)
“Turn, O LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love. God, please love us and protect my dad.”

Day 3: God's Love Is Forgiving

Slide 1: VBS Theme

Processional (Music playing as children are entering worship center) **“Dive”**¹⁶

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 God's love is forgiving. Do you sometimes make bad choices? (Wait for spontaneous responses) Does God still love you? (Wait for responses.) Yes, he does! Well, God forgives you when you make bad choices. He doesn't like the choice we made but he still loves us. Are you ready to sing? Let's go!*

Slide 3: Praise Song

Praise Song – **“I Could Sing of Your Love Forever”**¹⁷ or **“Deep, Deep”**¹⁸

Slide 4: VBS Scripture

VBS Scripture (Worship leader): Say, *We have read two verses in the Bible each day. These verses are found in the New Testament in the Book of Romans. It is one of Paul's letters. Let's read Romans 8:38-39 together:*

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These verses tell us that nothing can separate us from God's love! Isn't that exciting to know! God loves you so much! He places his loving arms around you each day and never leaves you! Are you ready to sing now? Stand with me as we join our praise team in singing, “Let Everything That Has Breath.”

Slide 5: Praise Song

Praise Song— **“Let Everything That Has Breath”**¹⁹

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.

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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 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 9: Prayer Song

Prayer Song— “We Fall Down”²⁰ or “Jesus, Draw Me Close”²¹

Drama—*It’s time for our drama. Cody is worried about his dad because he is missing. Let’s listen and see what’s happening.* (The drama may be presented live or videotaped prior to VBS. See separate drama script for Day 3, pages 18 and 19.)

Worship Leader: (At this time, the children chosen to receive the offering should take their baskets and stand by the exit doors) *Thank you, drama team. Wow! Aren’t you glad Cody’s dad is ok? Even though Cody was angry with Callie, he still pulled her to safety. He made the right choice. Today, your Bible story is about the woman at the well. She had not made good choices throughout her life, but Jesus forgave her.*

²⁰ “We Fall Down,” words and music by Chris Tomlin; from CD I Could Sing of Your Love Forever (Kids); Product code: TXD40333; UPC/EAN: 724354033322; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

²¹ “Jesus, Draw Me Close,” from CD America’s 25 Favorite Praise and Worship Choruses for Kids, Vol. 3; Product code: 8306106452; UPC/EAN: 083061064525; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

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 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 forgiving us when we make bad choices. Thank you for still loving us. We love you. Amen.*

Slide 10: VBS Theme

Recessional and Offering— **“Dive.”**²² 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.

²² “Dive,” written by Steven C. Chapman, from CD Big Songs for Little Kids, Brentwood Records.

Drama Script: Day 3 – God’s Love Is Forgiving

Introduction (*same as first day*)

Cody’s voice in a voice over – Wow! I can’t believe it. My dad is missing. I hope he has the kind of protection he needs in Iraq. My mom is so worried about my dad. Will my mom ever find a job? We need someone to watch over us.

Scene 1

(*The phone rings. Cody is walking by and picks up the phone.*)

Cody – Hello? (*Pauses and smiles*) Dad! You are okay! Wow! I can’t believe you are okay! What happened? (*Pause*) She is not here. She is at an interview. (*Pause*) Okay . . . mmm. What?! Tell me now. (*Pause*) Are you sure? I want to talk longer. I miss you. Bye. I love you.

(*Mom comes in the door.*)

Cody – Dad just called. He is okay. You will never believe what happened! The two boys he saw at the market yesterday were injured along with their mother. Dad and the other soldiers protected them and took them to a hospital. Everybody is okay.

Mom – I am so relieved. I am so glad your dad is safe, and to think, he helped a family just like ours.

Cody – You know, Mom, Coach Rich told me a Bible verse yesterday about God’s love. He told me that God loves us and wants to protect you, Ethan, Dad, and me.

Mom – (*Mom hugs Cody.*) I think God does love us, and he is looking out for us. Just like your dad protected that family. God protects us.

(*Ethan comes into the room with a sheet of paper where he has drawn a picture of a sailor with the mouth cut out.*)

Ethan – Look, Mom, what I made. (*He sticks the paper on his face, puts his face through the lips of the sailor, and sings the song to Sponge Bob.*)

Mom – Okay, Sponge Ethan, it is time to take Cody to the junior lifeguard training.

(*They walk out of the house together.*)

Scene 2 (At the pool)

Abby – You should have used last night to study your safety manuals. We are going to be working on lifesaving techniques without getting in the water. This is a timed test. You must race to the other side of the pool and retrieve the pole. Then you must pull the person in. The time will stop when the person is on the side of the pool.

(Show this process with several children.)

Rich – Cody, are you ready for your test?

Cody – Yeah, sure! Okay, we need to find someone who will be the drowning victim.

Callie – I would love to have Cody save me!

(Cody looks surprised and irritated. They set up the test. During the test, Callie looks to deliberately pull back, making it harder for Cody to pull her in. She is really having a cramp in her leg. When Cody gets her to the side, he is very angry.)

Rich – Wow, Cody, that took a long time! You were just one second under the time limit.

Cody – She did that on purpose. She is trying to get me eliminated from the junior lifeguard team!

Callie – No, I had a cramp. I could not help it.

Cody – You just stay away from me. You cheater!

Abby – *(Walks over to intervene)* Hey, guys, you are a team. Attitudes and actions like this can jeopardize someone's life and take your attention away from the reason we are here. Keep this up and you will both find yourselves off the team *(turning to the entire group)*. Tomorrow we will meet at the beach. We will test you on some open water swims. Rest well. See you there! Bring a lunch with you.

Scene 3

(Cody frowns and walks off to the car. Rich follows him out.)

Rich – Hey, man, wait up. I think you might have been wrong back there. I think Callie did have a cramp. I don't think she was cheating. You know Cody, in real life, a person could have a cramp while swimming and you would be expected to pull them to safety. I feel sorry for Callie. She was just trying to help. The key thing is that you did not lose focus and pulled her to safety. You did well!

Cody – (*Walks back to the car, thinking to himself.*) Great! I not only have trouble saving someone, but now I have called someone a cheater.

Day 4: God's Love Is Never-Ending

Slide 1: VBS Theme

Processional (Music playing as children are entering worship center) **“Dive”**²³

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 God's love is never-ending or “eternal.” 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!*

Slide 3: Praise Song

Praise Song **“I Could Sing of Your Love Forever”**²⁴ or **“Deep, Deep”**²⁵

Slide 4: VBS Scripture

VBS Scripture (Worship leader): Say, *We have read two verses in the Bible each day. These verses are found in the New Testament in the Book of Romans. It is one of Paul's letters. Let's read Romans 8:38-39 together:*

38For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These verses tell us that nothing can separate us from God's love! Isn't that exciting to know! God loves you so much! He places his loving arms around you each day and never leaves you! Are you ready to sing now? Stand with me as we join our praise team in singing.

Slide 5: Praise Song

Praise Song— **“Every Move I Make”**²⁶

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

²³ “Dive,” written by Steven C. Chapman, from CD Big Songs for Little Kids, Brentwood Records.

²⁴ “I Could Sing of Your Love Forever,” from CD I Could Sing of Your Love Forever (Kids), words and music by Martin Smith, product code: TXD40333, UPC/EAN: 724354033322; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

²⁵ “Deep, Deep,” Crazy Praise Volumes 1 & 2 songbook; product code: 4575708377 or UPC/EAN: 645757083779 or Crazy Praise split-track accompaniment CD, product code: 4575708373, UPC/EAN: 645757083731; both available from www.worshipmusic.com.

²⁶ “Every Move I Make,” words and music by David Ruis; from CD I Could Sing of Your Love Forever (Kids); product code: TXD40333, UPC/EAN: 724354033322; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

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). 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 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 9: Prayer Song Prayer Song— “We Fall Down”²⁷ or “Jesus, Draw Me Close”²⁸

Drama—*Cody was upset with himself yesterday. Let's see how he's feeling today.* (The drama may be presented live or videotaped prior to VBS. See separate drama script for Day 4, pages 23 and 24.)

Worship Leader: *Thank you, drama team. Do you think Ethan's ok? Cody felt bad that he had not watched Ethan more closely. What will his mother say? We'll find out tomorrow! As you go to your class, you will hear a very special Bible story about some good news.*

***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

²⁷ “We Fall Down,” words and music by Chris Tomlin; from CD I Could Sing of Your Love Forever (Kids); Product code: TXD40333; UPC/EAN: 724354033322; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

²⁸ “Jesus, Draw Me Close,” from CD America's 25 Favorite Praise and Worship Choruses for Kids, Vol. 3; Product code: 8306106452; UPC/EAN: 083061064525; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

children leave, lead the other children in singing “I Could Sing of Your Love Forever.”²⁹ 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.

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 10: VBS Theme

Recessional and Offering—**“Dive.”**³⁰ 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.

²⁹ “I Could Sing of Your Love Forever,” from CD I Could Sing of Your Love Forever (Kids), words and music by Martin Smith, product code: TXD40333, UPC/EAN: 724354033322; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

³⁰ “Dive,” written by Steven C. Chapman, from CD Big Songs for Little Kids, Brentwood Records.

Drama Script: Day 4—God’s Love Is Never-Ending

Introduction *(same as the previous days)*

Cody’s voice in a voice over – Junior lifeguard training is not going the way I had expected. I know I can do it, but I keep having trouble. I decided to apologize to Callie for the way I have acted. I called her and told her that I was sorry. (Show this with the voice over.) Let’s see what today brings.

Scene 1

Mom – *(Looking out the door to where the boys are playing)* Hey, guys, it is time for us to head over to the beach for the junior lifeguard training.

(They walk towards the car.)

Mom – Cody, I have a follow-up interview for a real estate job. Ethan is going with you one last time. But remember, this is the beach, and so you need to really watch him. It could be very dangerous. Promise me you will watch him!

Cody – On one condition, Ethan cannot carry that Ken doll on a string. It is so not cool.

(Ethan shakes his head, smiles, and then tucks something under his shirt.)

Scene 2

(The boys are joining the other kids at the beach. Abby and Rich direct the kids to put their stuff away and have a seat on the beach.)

Abby – Today is the hardest test. It is the open water swim. I need your complete attention. Distractions could get someone hurt.

Rich – We are going to swim out to the float and swim back.

(We see several kids, including Cody. During this time, Ethan takes out “Ken” and begins dragging him away. No one notices.)

Rich – Congratulations to everyone! Great job!

Abby – I was impressed by your focus on the task. Everyone can go get lunch, and we can continue the training later.

Scene 3

(Cody walks back with some of his friends. As Cody gets out his lunch, he sees Ethan's lunch.)

Cody – *(Frantic)* Has anyone seen Ethan? *(He runs around looking for Ethan.)*

Rich – What has happened?

Cody – Ethan is missing! Ethan is lost!

(From here we see several groups looking for Ethan)

Scene 4

Rich – *(Walks up to Cody)* Cody, we are going to find Ethan. He can't be far. This is what we are trained for. And you know, Cody, God is looking out for Ethan, too. Even when we wander off or go in a direction God does not want us to go, God is still looking for us. He wants to save us from the danger of poor choices.

Cody – *(Looks sad)* I love my family, but right now it seems like everything is falling apart.

Rich – After we find Ethan, I want to talk with your mom. I think we can find help for you and your family.

Day 5: God's Love Is for Sharing

Slide 1: VBS Theme

Processional (music playing as children are entering the worship center): **“Dive”**³¹

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 God's love is for sharing. 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. Today you will hear what Jesus told Peter! Jesus said that if Peter loved him, Peter would tell other people about him. Well, it's time to sing. Let's go!*

Slide 3: Praise Song Praise Song **“I Could Sing of Your Love Forever”**³² or **“Deep, Deep”**³³

Slide 4: VBS Scripture

VBS Scripture (Worship leader): Say, *We have read two verses in the Bible each day. These verses are found in the New Testament in the Book of Romans. It is one of Paul's letters. Let's read Romans 8:38-39 together:*

38For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These verses tell us that nothing can separate us from God's love! Isn't that exciting to know! God loves you so much! He places his loving arms around you each day and never leaves you! Are you ready to sing now? Stand with me as we join our praise team in singing.

Slide 5: Praise Song

Praise Song— “Every Move I Make”³⁴

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.

³¹“Dive,” written by Steven C. Chapman, from CD Big Songs for Little Kids, Brentwood Records

³² “I Could Sing of Your Love Forever,” from CD I Could Sing of Your Love Forever (Kids), words and music by Martin Smith, product code: TXD40333, UPC/EAN: 724354033322; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

³³ “Deep, Deep,” Crazy Praise Volumes 1 & 2 songbook; product code: 4575708377 or UPC/EAN: 645757083779 or Crazy Praise split-track accompaniment CD, product code: 4575708373, UPC/EAN: 645757083731; both available from www.worshipmusic.com.

³⁴ “Every Move I Make,” words and music by David Ruis; from CD I Could Sing of Your Love Forever (Kids); product code: TXD40333, UPC/EAN: 724354033322; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

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). 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 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 9: Prayer Song

Prayer Song— “We Fall Down”³⁵ or “Jesus, Draw Me Close”³⁶

Drama—*Where could Ethan be? Cody is very worried because he was supposed to be watching him!* (The drama may be presented live or videotaped prior to VBS. See separate drama script for Day 5, pages 28 and 29.)

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.) *Thank you, drama team. What a wonderful ending to our story! They found Ethan! Cody and Ethan's dad returned home and their family found a church to attend! 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! The Bible story today is about Peter*

³⁵ “We Fall Down,” words and music by Chris Tomlin; from CD I Could Sing of Your Love Forever (Kids); product code: TXD40333; UPC/EAN: 724354033322; available from www.worshipmusic.com

³⁶ “Jesus, Draw Me Close,” from CD America's 25 Favorite Praise and Worship Choruses for Kids, Vol. 3; Product code: 8306106452; UPC/EAN: 083061064525; available from www.worshipmusic.com.

sharing the love of Jesus with Peter's friends. Some of you shared Jesus' love with your friends by inviting them to VBS!

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 10: VBS Theme

Recessional and Offering—**“Dive.”**³⁷ 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.

³⁷ “Dive,” written by Steven C. Chapman, from CD Big Songs for Little Kids, Brentwood Records.

Drama Script: Day 5—God’s Love Is for Sharing

Cody’s voice in a voice-over – My brother Ethan has wandered off, and no one knows where he is. He is lost, and I want him back, even if he has to bring that “Ken” doll on a string. I want my family back together. Rich said that he wants to help us. I wonder what he means.

Scene 1

(Mom has arrived back at the beach.)

Cody – Mom, I am so sorry. I can’t believe that Ethan is missing. I really did not mean to lose him.

Mom – It’s going to be okay.

(She has joined in the search. On the other side of the beach, Ethan is tossing “Ken” into the water and pulling him out.)

Scene 2

Abby – Ethan! Ethan! *(Abby is looking for Ethan. She walks up behind him as he is making a toss. He is unaware. She folds her arms and stands behind him until he looks up.)*

Ethan – *(Looks around and smiles)* You want to toss “Ken.”

Abby – *(Abby pulls in “Ken” and wraps him up while talking. Ethan looks disturbed that she is taking “Ken.”)* A lot of people have been worried about you. Your mother and brother have been searching for you. They thought you were lost.

Ethan – I was not lost. I knew where I was.

Abby – You were somewhere you should not have been. Let’s go find your family.

Scene 3

(Cody, his mom, and his brother are hugging each other after everyone else moves away.)

Rich – Hey, Mrs. Woods, I am so sorry that Ethan wandered off. We were so busy with the training that he just slipped away.

Mom – It is really my fault. With their dad in Iraq, it has been so hard to keep things together, and I have been looking for a job. I wanted so much for Cody to join the junior lifeguard program. I wanted him to feel like he could make a difference.

Rich – Mrs. Woods, you have a great family, but even great families need help. I would like for you to come by and meet our pastor. I think that our church would love to help you and the boys. We would love to help any family, but especially a family where the dad is a soldier. Would you be interested?

Cody – Mom, you said that you went to VBS when you were a kid. I would like to go to VBS and other fun activities at church. Rich told me that God loves us. I want to go and find out more about God and the Bible.

Scene 4

Cody's voice in a voice-over – You will never imagine what happened next. My dad got news that he would be coming home soon to serve in a position in our town. We will be together again, but it may be a few months until that happens. We did go to church with Rich. We started on Sunday. I love my Sunday School class. My teacher gave me a Bible. I have started writing verses to my dad on e-mail. He loves it. I can't wait to sit in "Big Church" with my dad. Oh yea, guess what? Ethan dragged "Ken" along on a string to church, too.