



# 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](http://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

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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 GC2 Press® website, [www.gc2press.org](http://www.gc2press.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 10-11: Mission Story**

**Introduce mission story:** Each day at this time, we will hear a mission story about the Texas Baptists Hunger Offering.

### **We love our neighbor by seeing them and their needs.**

Have you ever seen a student in your class or school who looked sad, and you stopped to see how you can help? How about a time where your brother, sister, or friend needed help with something, and you stopped what you were doing to help them? *Give children time to respond.*

Sometimes we're so busy and focused on our needs that we forget to stop and see the people around us and their needs. There are many needs in our homes, community, country, and world. Jesus encourages us to look not only at our needs but also to the needs of others (Philippians 2:4).

#### **Show the slide with the picture for Day 1.**

Look at the photo of children who received resources from one of our Texas Baptist Hunger Offering Ministries. What do you see in the picture? *Allow time for children to respond. Some items in the photo are potatoes, bread, macaroni & cheese, cooking oil, beans, rice, cookies, toilet paper, and children smiling.* These are examples of food and items we can help provide others with. There is a ministry called the Texas Baptist Hunger Offering that helps many ministries love their neighbor by providing time and resources.

The Texas Baptist Hunger Offering supports feeding the hungry in Texas and around the world. In 2023, the Texas Baptist Hunger Offering is providing money to help 147 ministries in Texas

and around the world to give groceries, hot meals, farming classes, and other resources to people in need. This week you will learn more about special ways this offering helps us to love our neighbor.

You have an opportunity to help love your neighbor by raising money to give to the Texas Baptist Hunger Offering. We are thankful for the kind people and churches who give to the Texas Baptist Hunger Offering so that many ministries can love their neighbors. We celebrate that 100% of funds given go directly to the ministries. We are better together and we can join by being ALL IN to love our neighbors across Texas and around the world.

**Pray:** *Thank you, God, for the generosity of people and churches who contribute to the Hunger Offering and help support ministries that help us love our neighbors, here and around the world.*

**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 12: 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**

**We love our neighbor by meeting their needs with compassion.**

Yesterday we talked about a man who gave of his time, resources, and money to his neighbor in need. Can you remember a time where you were asked to share food, a toy, or something else of yours and you didn't really feel like sharing? *Acknowledge some of the possible smiles or nods in the room.* Sometimes we don't want to share our time, resources, or money but God asks us to give with a cheerful and loving attitude. Today we are going to read a verse in the Bible that talks about giving to others with a loving attitude.

The Bible teaches us that acts of service or kindness without love do not hold value. We can give all our clothes, toys, food, or other items we own to the poor but if we do not do it with a cheerful and willing heart, then we don't change. However, if we give to others because we are moved with compassion and compelled by God's love, then we gain His peace and understanding of true love. We grow in character and become closer to the way God designed us to be - loving people reflecting the love of Christ.

Giving to others becomes a blessing as we learn to give cheerfully and when we are moved with compassion. There is a time and place for everything. Seeing our neighbors' needs often requires asking and not assuming. Let's learn about a ministry who met with families to ask about their farming needs.

In 2023 there are 147 Texas Baptist Hunger Offering Ministries who love their neighbors by meeting their hunger needs. Some of the ministries act with compassion and want to go beyond providing a one-time meal. These ministries teach people to grow fruits, vegetables, or other foods to provide for their families' hunger needs and also to sell and produce income for their families.

***Show children the Day 2 Photo.***

Agraverse in Sierra Leone is an example of a ministry who goes beyond food distribution. They provide food security, environmental sustainability, and economic empowerment for people living in Tonko Limba Chiefdom by assisting them with and educating them on both food and cash crops. This year they are planting peanuts. In May 2023, the farming families will plant the



peanut seeds and develop the peanut farms. In September 2023, the peanuts will be ready for harvest. Join in praying for a good rainy season and fruitful harvest so that Agraverse farming families may produce both food and cash crops to provide for their families.

**Pray:** *Thank you, God, for the financial support of the Texas Baptist Hunger Offering to support ministries including Agraverse.*

**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 10-11: Mission Story**

#### **We love our neighbor by providing food.**

One of the practical ways to show God's love for others is to provide food. In a world of abundance, it may be easy to forget that there are people in our own communities who go hungry and don't know where their next meal will come from. Not only do we want people to have food but healthy and nutritious food to help their bodies grow. Did you know that 1 in 5 children in Texas are considered **food insecure**? This means they don't have regular access to nutritious foods their families can afford. Think of your school class of about 20 students. That means that 4 of your friends in a class of 20 do not have regular access to fresh fruits and vegetables they can afford. Today we're going to learn a Bible verse that reminds us why feeding the hungry is special to God.

Jesus reminds us that loving our neighbor by providing food is a way that we also love Jesus. We can find many times in the Bible where Jesus fed the hungry. There was the boy who had five small loaves of bread and two small fish and Jesus multiplied them to feed 5,000 men (John 6: 1-15). There was also the widow who only had a handful of flour and a little olive oil and God provided bread for Elijah, the woman, and her family daily (1 Kings 17:7-16). Not only did God care about providing any food but he also showed the value of nutritious vegetables through Daniel's fast (Daniel 1:6-20).

Remember the phrase we learned earlier - **food insecurity**? This word is used to describe people who are in a situation where they don't have regular access to nutritious foods they can afford.

#### ***Show children the Day 3 Photo.***

All Texas Baptist Hunger Offering Ministries help provide food for the hungry; however, each ministry does so in unique ways. Some ministries like Heart of the City in Lewisville, TX and Iglesia Bautista Esperanza en Cristo in El Paso, TX provide groceries. Other ministries such as Lackland Baptist Church in San Antonio, TX provide hot meals to people experiencing homelessness. Then there are ministries including Gospel Light Eritrean Baptist Church - Sudan Mission in Sudan and School Fuel in San Marcos, TX who focus on feeding students. So

whether it's providing seeds for farming, groceries, hot meals, or sack lunches, Texas Baptist Hunger Offering Ministries make a large difference in loving their neighbors by providing food.

**Prayer Time:** *Thank you, Lord, for the many ministries that help provide food for people and families in Texas and beyond.*

**Slide 12: 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.

### 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: "Shout to the Lord"**

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

#### **We love our neighbor by providing safe drinking water**

Yesterday we talked about ways to love our neighbor by providing them with food. In addition to nutritious food, we can also love our neighbor by providing safe drinking water. What are all the different ways you use water in a day? *Allow children to respond. Some possible answers are: to drink, brush my teeth, wash my hands, go swimming, play water games, give to my pet, cook, flush the toilet, take a shower/bath, wash the dishes, or wash clothes.*

Did you know that "2.2 billion people have limited access to safe drinking water, and by 2025, half of the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas"? That means 1 in every 4 people on earth have limited access to safe drinking water.

Think about the privilege you have water to use every day. Remember about 1 in 4 people in this world have limited access to safe drinking water. They do not easily have access to clean and safe water to carry out daily activities. Let's talk about a ministry in Indonesia who provides access to clean water.

#### **Show children the Day 4 Photos.**

**Say:** Today we are highlighting Southeast Asia Water Relief in Indonesia. This ministry supplies clean water to isolated communities lacking access to clean water by building community-sized, slow-sand water filtration systems. In addition, Southeast Asia Water Relief provides training to the community on filtration system maintenance. Southeast Asia Water Relief partnered with local church leaders and other organizations to construct a community-sized clean water filtration system in their small front lawn. The community was invited to use the clean water filter with no strings attached. Community members were overjoyed at this generosity as clean water was a great need in the community. As a result, the local church developed trust and openness with the community.

We may live in an area where water is clean and does not run out. However, we can better love our neighbors and future generations by using water efficiently to help ensure we keep reliable water supplies. Consider how you can save water indoors tomorrow.:

- Turn off the tap while shaving or brushing teeth

- Take a shower instead of a bath (still make sure you clean up well)
- If you use the dishwasher, make sure it's fully loaded

**Pray:** *Thank you, God, for the contributions to the Hunger Offering that help support ministries including Southeast Asia Water Relief. Also, thank you for the clean water that we enjoy every day. Help us appreciate what we have and not waste it.*

**\*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](http://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 10-11: Mission Story**

#### **We love our neighbor by providing the hope of Jesus Christ.**

Yesterday we learned about a ministry who provides clean water for the community, no strings attached. Loving our neighbor by meeting their needs of food, water, or other resources should come as a genuine gift and not based on any conditions. The ultimate desire of providing resources for our neighbors is that one day they may have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We share our time, resources, and money because we want others to know and love Jesus Christ.

Jesus often spoke about things we see to share about eternal things that we cannot see with our own eyes. Meeting basic human needs of food, water, and shelter are necessary for life on earth. Finding hope in Jesus Christ provides true long-term change for eternity.

Each Texas Baptist Hunger Offering Ministry focuses on providing food and resources in Jesus' name. Amani Sasa in Uganda is a shelter that provides emergency food assistance to refugee families and daily meals to refugees.

#### **Show children the Day 5 Photo.**

The TX Hunger Offering provided Joy and other residents the physical nourishment through meals that were foundational to her healing, growth, and transformation. I will read to you Joy's testimony.

I remember meeting her seven months before when she first arrived in our program with her 1-year-old baby. She was only 18 years old. She had been orphaned and abandoned by her family. She lost hope and felt in despair. She shared that the shelter is where she came back to life. While living in a safe home and through a community of staff who loved her and walked alongside her, Joy was able to do the courageous work of healing through counseling and therapy sessions. She was able to learn practical vocational skills that she can use to provide for herself and her small daughter. Through the group therapy and evening discipleship program, she realized that God loved her and created her with a purpose.

On graduation day, she stood tall, proud, her heart full of hope and joy. She shared, "Before coming to the shelter, I thought I was nothing." She took a deep breath and with tears in her

eyes, she looked at me and said “Now I know that I am something. I am wonderfully made by God. I know that I am loved. I know I have a bright future ahead of me.”

This is the eternal impact Texas Baptist Hunger Offering Ministries have because they love their neighbor by providing the hope of Jesus Christ.

**Pray:** *Lord, we pray for the lives of those who receive resources from the Texas Baptist Hunger Offering Ministries. We pray they may feel the love of Jesus Christ through basic needs and ultimately come to know and Lord Jesus.*

**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.