

Counselor Leader Guide



Training is @ www.McGregor.net/vbs

schedule overview

Monday-Thursday, 1st-4th Grade

- 6:00 PM Doors Open, get to know the kids, play a fun “get to know you” game.
- 6:15 PM Homeroom (T-Th work on MV & God sighting)/First Rotation
Bible/Hope Theater or Hope 219
Imagination Station/Activity A or Activity B
- 6:50 PM Peak Rally/Fellowship Hall
- 7:35 PM Final Rotation
Bible/Hope Theater or Hope 219
Imagination Station/Activity A or Activity B
- 8:15 PM Parent Pick-up, 4th graders MUST have a “Permission to Leave” form to meet their parent at a different location and to pick up a sibling.

Monday-Thursday, 5th Grade

- 6:00 PM Doors Open, check in at Faith Gym, get to know the kids, play a fun “get to know you” game (like the one in the Imagination Station book).
- 6:15 PM Bible/Faith 209
- 6:50 PM Peak Rally/Fellowship Hall
- 7:35 PM Imagination Station, Games /Faith 209, Faith Gym
- 8:15 PM Parent Pick-up, kids must have a “Permission to Leave” form to meet their parent at a different location
- 6:15 PM Friday Family Night/Fellowship Hall, you are not responsible for your crew, but a great time to show them you care by being there!

Why did you come to talk with me? Why do you need the Lord Jesus Christ?



The True and Living God (John 3:16a)

- Who is God?
- What does it mean that God is holy?
- Does God love you?



Need of Salvation (Romans 3:23a)

- What is sin?
- Are you a sinner?
- What is God's punishment for sin?



Way of Salvation (1 Corinthians 15:3-5a)

- Who is Jesus?
- What did the Lord Jesus do for you?
- Why is Jesus the only one who could die for your sins?
- What happened to Jesus after He died?



Trust in Jesus

- Let's look in the Bible to see what God says about believing in Jesus. (Use a condition/promise verse such as John 1:12; John 3:16 or Acts 16:31 and the terminology used in the verse you choose; e.g., believe in, believe on, receive, etc.)
- What does God promise He will do?
- What does God say you must do?
- Do you believe in the Lord Jesus as the only Savior from your sins?
- We must turn from something (our sin) to Someone (Jesus)



Suggested Prayer of Response

- Tell God that you have sinned and that you are sorry.
- Tell God you believe in (trust) the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for your sin and rose again.
- Tell God you want to live His way, with His help.



Assurance

- If you truly believe in the Lord Jesus, what did He do for you?
- How do you know? (Read the condition/promise verse again. Put child's name in it.)
- The Bible says that Jesus comes into your life when you believe in Him. Jesus will never leave you! (Read Hebrews 13:5b.) Where is Jesus now?
- (Read Hebrews 13:6a.) Who will help you say NO to sin?
- If you do sin, what should you do? Let's look and see what God's Word says. (Read and explain 1 John 1:9.)



GROW (2 Peter 3:18)

- **G**—Go to church and Sunday school.
- **R**—Read God's Word and **pray** every day.
- **O**—Obey God! God, the Holy Spirit, lives in you to give you the power to help you do what is right. (Read Hebrews 13:5b-6a.)
- **W**—**Witness** to others, telling them about what the Lord Jesus has done for them.

Before the child leaves, give him or her a tract.
Encourage him to talk to God right now:

- Thank God for loving you and saving you from sin.
 - Thank God for helping you live for Him.
- Pray for the child by name.



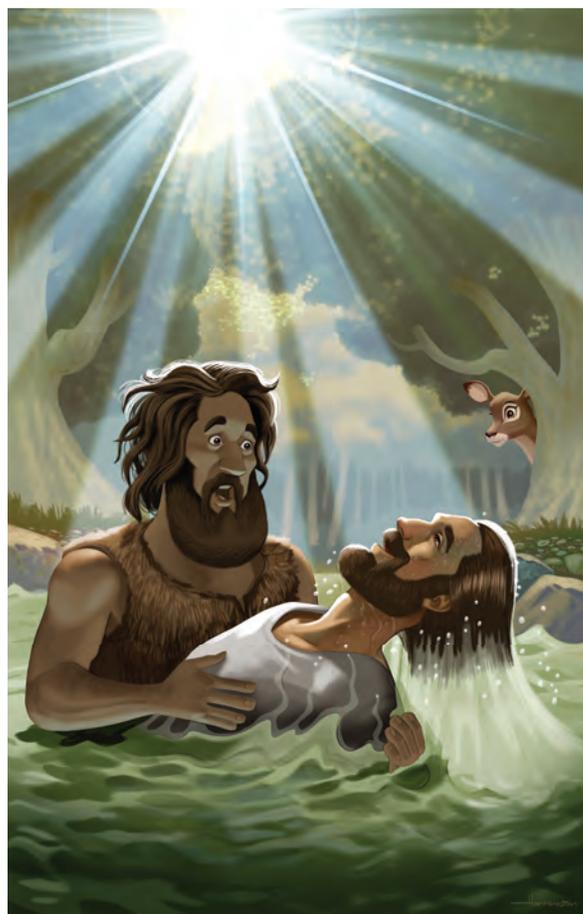
When we wonder, we can trust Jesus.

Bible Verse: “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise.” (Matthew 7:24)

Bible Story: John prepares the way and baptizes Jesus. (Matthew 3; 11:1-6)

Jesus’ cousin John came with unconventional clothes, a pauper’s diet, and a bold message: “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” Meaning? Jesus—the Messiah and fulfillment of God’s kingdom on earth—is *here*! John proclaimed Jesus’ power and authority. He resisted the very idea of baptizing Jesus, the one who would baptize with fire and the Holy Spirit! While John adamantly proclaimed Christ, even he had questions about Jesus. From prison, John sent a message to Jesus, asking, “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?” John’s circumstances may have caused him to wonder if (and when) Jesus might take political action. Scholars ponder if John may have assumed the Messiah would be the one to rescue God’s people from Roman rule—as many Jews of the time anticipated. However, Jesus had a greater mission than anyone could comprehend. He came to save *the world* from sin. Such love and compassion go beyond anything we can understand or imagine!

Kids’ curiosity can be intimidating—and a bit wearying. They have so many questions, many of which we simply can’t answer. And when it comes to questions about Jesus, God, or the Bible, adults can *really* feel overwhelmed and underprepared. But we don’t have to have all the answers! Sometimes our wonderings can lead to true *wonder*, as we discover the mystery and marvel of God. Today, celebrate curiosity and questions. Point kids to Jesus, a trustworthy and true friend who will guide us as we seek to know and understand him better.



Pointing to Jesus

People (even John the Baptist) wondered about Jesus. This passage can encourage kids that it’s okay to ask questions about Jesus—he will always help us find the truth.

When we feel alone, we can trust Jesus.

Bible Verse: “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

Bible Story: Jesus teaches about God’s love for us. (Matthew 6:25-33; 18:12-14)

Jesus’ ministry had just begun when he stopped on a mountainside near Capernaum and began to speak...and speak...and speak! What we call the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus’ call to live a life pleasing to God. He covered practical topics such as prayer, divorce, enemies, and giving. No wonder a crowd of more than 5,000 soon gathered! Jesus challenged the multitude, but he also comforted them. He reassured people of God’s gentle care for each person. This mattered because in Jesus’ time, most people led a hand-to-mouth existence. The average citizen awakened each day unsure of how to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing. Imagine the peace found in Jesus’ words: “So don’t worry about these things...your heavenly Father already knows all your needs” (Matthew 6:31-32). Ahhhh! Jesus encouraged listeners to rest in God’s loving care, trusting in his unfailing presence. With God by our side, we never face challenges alone.

Some kids will come to your VBS with physical needs. Maybe food isn’t readily available at home or new shoes haven’t been in the family budget for a while. Others have emotional needs—they’re in a friendship famine, or anxiety has starved them of peace. Both types of needs can isolate kids, causing them to feel alone in their struggles. And kids who try to handle stress by themselves end up feeling exhausted and anxious. Jesus’ words provide a feast of encouragement! He offers his broad shoulders and strong arms to carry whatever heavy burdens kids feel they carry alone. Use today’s lesson to bring comfort to hurting kids, reminding them that they can rest in Jesus’ loving care. Kids can trust Jesus, who truly values and sees them.



Pointing to Jesus

Jesus affirms just how valuable we are to God. So when kids feel lonely, left out, or cast aside, they don’t need to worry. They can trust in God’s rock-solid love.

When we feel powerless, we can trust Jesus.

Bible Verse: “Don’t be afraid,” he said, “Take courage. I am here!” (Matthew 14:27)

Bible Story: A Roman officer trusts Jesus.
(Matthew 8:5-13)

Capernaum, situated on the Sea of Galilee, boasted a Roman customs station and proximity to busy trade routes. Considering Rome’s occupation of the city, Roman soldiers likely patrolled the streets. Their presence offended plenty of devout Jews, who recoiled at the idea of worshipping many gods, among other Roman practices. So onlookers got a big surprise when a Roman centurion—a powerful leader of up to about 100 men—approached Jesus with humility and respect. This leader, who clearly understood what it meant to have authority, identified Jesus as someone with power. The centurion wholeheartedly believed that Jesus could heal his servant with just a word. What confidence from one who likely *didn’t* follow God! Jesus praised the centurion’s faith to the gathering crowd. And, just as the centurion trusted, Jesus’ power provided miraculous, authoritative healing for the servant.

If anyone understands what it’s like to be powerless, it’s a kid. Hungry? You need a grown-up to buy food. Don’t like broccoli? Too bad—that’s what’s on your plate! Want to visit a friend who lives far away? You’ll need to find someone who can drive you there. Oftentimes kids don’t have the power to make daily choices. But on a bigger scale, kids hear overwhelming and frightening news about the world and feel incapable of making a difference. Broken families can bring about anxiety and a sense of helplessness. Yet Jesus promises his powerful presence when life feels out of control. Today, point kids to the mighty power of Jesus—a faithful friend with the authority to conquer every fear.



Pointing to Jesus

Even a mighty Roman officer knew he didn’t have power like Jesus. When circumstances make kids feel helpless, they can always trust in Jesus’ strength.

When we need hope, we can trust Jesus.

Bible Verse: “And his name will be the hope of all the world.” (Matthew 12:21)

Bible Story: Jesus dies and comes back to life. (Matthew 26:47–28:8)

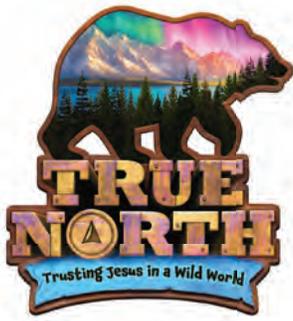
Everything about Jesus offended the religious leaders of the time. He forgave sins. He spent time with tax collectors and people of poor reputation. He seemed to disregard religious tradition. And he claimed to be the Messiah—the awaited Savior and King of God’s people. Their outrage culminated in Jesus’ arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Jesus’ followers must have felt like hope was crucified that day, too. They’d seen Jesus heal lepers and make blind people see. They’d trusted his promises. They’d hoped that he was God’s Son. And now their friend and teacher lay lifeless behind a wall of rock. How could this be? Had they been wrong? What was next? The mystery continued when, three days later, they found an empty tomb and angelic messenger who told them, “He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen.” Jesus lives! Hope is resurrected, giving *all* who believe the promise of eternal life!

Maybe you like working with kids because they bring you hope. Spending time with kids reminds you of days when everything seemed possible. “I’m gonna play pro football,” “I can’t wait to be an actor!” or “Someday I’ll fly a plane!” The future is full of promise. Yet every child experiences a moment when dreams fail, reality crashes in, hope dies. Parents lose jobs, grandparents get sick, families move, friends leave. And frightening news stories may lead to despair about what our future holds. Today, take the opportunity to boldly declare the hope we *all* can have...in Jesus! God’s Son offers a truly hopeful future—one that lasts into eternity and is full of joy and promise. Point kids to the truth and hope Jesus brings through his loving sacrifice.



Pointing to Jesus

Like Jesus’ followers, kids may face times that seem hopeless or dark. Today’s passage encourages kids that Jesus *is* our hope—both here on earth and for eternity!



Day 4

Bible Point:
When we need hope,
we can... (trust Jesus!)



Helping Children Follow Jesus

During the week, if you sense that a child might like to know more about what it means to believe in Jesus, give this simple explanation or connect them to a counselor:

God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. Jesus died and took the punishment for all the wrong things we do. But Jesus is stronger than death, and he came back to life! Jesus wants to be our friend forever. When we ask him to, he'll take away the wrong things we've done and fill our lives with his love. Jesus will always be with us and will help us make the right choices. When we believe in Jesus and ask him to forgive us, someday we'll live with him forever in heaven.

Be sure to share the news of the child's spiritual development with his or her parent(s).



God Sightings®

Today help your Crew members think of God Sightings that remind us of the hope and new life we have in Jesus.

- ▶ Point out signs of life, such as new flowers, butterflies, or rain.
- ▶ Celebrate all the kids you see learning about Jesus, worshipping together, and growing in faith! What a small taste of heaven!

Wrap-up questions: Wilderness Course

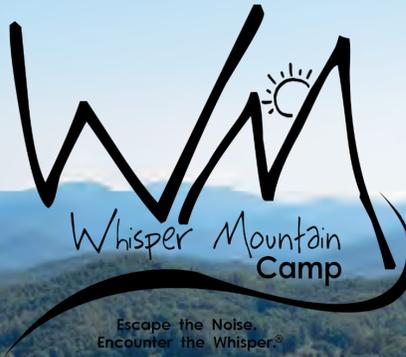
ASK Which obstacle was the toughest for you, and why?

What are some tough things in life that feel like obstacles? Share a kid-friendly example or two of your own first, such as trying to fix broken friendships or struggling to learn something new.

SAY Life is a lot like a wilderness course! We face challenges sometimes, and it can really help to talk with Jesus about them in prayer. When we need hope, we can... (trust Jesus!) He's a caring friend who listens and understands. Jesus is always there cheering us on and ready to help as we take on obstacles.



Directions From Your Director _____



Jake & Jessica Wallace will be representing Whisper Mountain during VBS. This year's VBS missions project is to buy bunk beds for Whisper Mountain's new Camper Lodge. They need 30 beds. The camp is in Robbinsville, NC and their website is WhisperMountain.org



Video of building and beds inside:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JvffljHHk50>



“And his name will be the hope of all the world.”
 (Matthew 12:21)

VBS 2025 - Cafeteria Menu

6/9/2025	6/10/2025	6/11/2025	6/12/2025	6/13/2025
Monday 4:30-6:30p	Tuesday 4:30-6:30p	Wed. 4:30-6:30p	Thursday 4:30-6:30p	Friday
<u>Serving Line #1</u>	<u>Serving Line #1</u>	<u>Serving Line #1</u>	<u>Serving Line #1</u>	<u>CLOSED!</u>
Gourmet Salads - \$6.50	Gourmet Salads - \$6.50	Gourmet Salads - \$6.50	Gourmet Salads - \$6.50	
Chicken nuggets(6) - \$5	Pizza Slice - \$2	Hamburger - \$4	Pizza Slice - \$2	
Hot Dog - \$3	Hot Dog - \$3	Hot Dog - \$3	Hot Dog - \$3	
Fries - \$3	Fries - \$3	Fries - \$3	Fries - \$3	
Chicken Tender - \$1.50	Chicken Tender - \$1.50	Chicken Tender - \$1.50	Chicken Tender - \$1.50	
Baked Beans - \$2.50	Baked Beans - \$2.50	Baked Beans - \$2.50	Baked Beans - \$2.50	
Chips - \$1	Chips - \$1	Chips - \$1	Chips - \$1	
Med. fountain - \$1.75	Med. fountain - \$1.75	Med. fountain - \$1.75	Med. fountain - \$1.75	
Bottled Water - \$2	Bottled Water - \$2	Bottled Water - \$2	Bottled Water - \$2	
1/2 pt. milk - \$0.75	1/2 pt. milk - \$0.75	1/2 pt. milk - \$0.75	1/2 pt. milk - \$0.75	

Combo - \$6
 hot dog/fries/drink
 or
 tenders-(2)/fries/drink

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 hot dog/fries/drink
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 tenders-(2)/fries/drink

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