

Elementary Crew 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!

What's a Crew Leader?

If you've been asked to be a Crew Leader, you've met two important qualifications: You love the Lord, and you love children. During True North, you'll visit different activities with a group of three to five children. *You're not in charge of preparing or teaching activities; you just get to be there and help kids enjoy them as you shepherd the members of your Crew.* Because your Crew is small, you'll get to know and affirm each member by asking questions, really listening, and being encouraging.



What We Found

This isn't from our field test but from a VBS director who frequents our online forum. She reminds the Crew Leaders that some of the kids at VBS might not ever hear a kind or affirming word. She encourages her Crew Leaders to speak God's love to *each child*. This director says it makes a huge difference in the way Crew Leaders treat and speak to the kids. Wonderful idea!



Make it memorable

Bible Memory Buddies®

During each day's Bible, you'll give every kid in your Crew a True North Bible Memory Buddy that kids can take home that night. Please hold the Bible Buddies until the end of the evening so kids don't play with them instead of listening to the leaders. Each Buddy has the day's Bible verse written on the bottom, too!

Bruce the moose will be given out with the VBS invite cards. So we will not have them during the week of VBS.



God Sightings®

God hasn't retired, you know. He's as busy now as he's ever been. But until you see that with your own eyes, it's tough to have a vibrant faith. God can seem distant or impersonal. God is active in our everyday lives—and we can learn to look. We can make it a habit to keep an eye out for the daily overwhelming evidence that God is doing great things all around us.

A God Sighting is simply an acknowledgment that God has done something. It's giving God credit where credit is due. It's developing a God-focused view and a grateful heart. Kids and adults will discover that they can see God in things like Scripture, people, circumstances, and nature.



Kids love to help!

Each child could have one of the jobs listed here. Rotate jobs each day so that by the end of the week, all children in the Crew have had an opportunity to do each job. Kids are excited about having special jobs. Encourage them to fulfill their roles, and provide lots of opportunities for them to do so.

COMPASS CLUE

Kids love to play with the Bible Buddies and Imagination Station experiments. These are a distraction from the message that God might have for them. We will provide backpacks for the Crew Leader to collect these and give them to the kids on your Crew in the last rotation of each day.

- Guide**
chooses action ideas for traveling through True North (such as bear crawling or crab walking.)
- Kit Carrier**
distributes and collects supplies and helps carry the Crew's bag
- Prayer Person**
leads or opens prayer times
- Schedule Supervisor**
helps monitor the daily schedule to let the Crew know what's coming next
- Thank you-er**
leads the Crew in thanking Station Leaders each day

The Crew family

Every member of your mixed-age Crew adds something to every activity!

Creating a Crew on Monday, first rotation. The Station Leaders and Directors will create crews. You should write the names of your kids in the space provided in the back of this booklet.



I've just completed first grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to be the best. I can help encourage my Crew to be the best it can be.



I've just completed second grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I want everything to be fair. I can help make sure we all take turns and treat one another fairly.



I've just completed third grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to be challenged. I can help younger members of my Crew with challenging projects.



I've just completed fourth grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to ask questions. I can help my Crew ask questions to make sure we understand what we're learning.



I've just completed fifth grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to make choices. I can help younger Crew members with tasks and help the Crew Leader guide everyone in showing Jesus' love.



Top 4 Crew Leader tips

1 Participate!

- ▶ Sing the songs and do the motions.
- ▶ *Play* the games.
- ▶ Be curious in Imagination Station.
- ▶ Use your imagination in Bible Adventures to interact with each day's story.
- ▶ Share your own God Sightings.
- ▶ Give your own insights about each days memory verse.

3 Lavish your attention on the kids.

- ▶ Turn off your cellphone—you can contact your friends *after* VBS!
- ▶ Use kids' names in kind and loving ways.
- ▶ Use eye-to-eye contact.
- ▶ Be a tuned-in, affirming listener during discussions. Paraphrase kids' answers in a response back to them to show that you've heard and understood what they've said
- ▶ Give hugs or high-fives throughout the day.
- ▶ Be there for the kids as they arrive. Get there early. 5:30pm on Monday! Childcare for those under 3 will be open, but keep your VBS aged kids with you.
Arrive at 5:45 pm Tuesday-Thursday.

2 Support the Station Leaders.

- ▶ Quickly sit in knee-to-knee circles for Crew discussions.
- ▶ Listen to each Station Leader, and encourage kids to listen too.
- ▶ Put the Crew bag (and other distracting items) out of the way during activities.
- ▶ Be enthusiastic.

4 Be positive.

- ▶ Model the behavior that you want kids to have.
- ▶ Positively acknowledge kids' answers to questions. Rather than saying "No, that's the wrong answer," say "Thanks for sharing. Anyone else have thoughts?"
- ▶ Smile! Have fun!



Use Positive Words Like These:

- ▶ Let's keep moving so we can do as many fun activities as possible.
- ▶ Listen carefully so you'll know what to do next.
- ▶ Stay with the Crew; we need your help in this activity!
- ▶ That's a unique way of doing things! How did you think of that?
Let's try it this way.
- ▶ It's important that we all follow the instructions and work together as a team.
- ▶ Please move over here so you can see better.
- ▶ Let's all sit in a circle so we can see and hear one another better.
- ▶ Those Buddies sure are cool! Let's keep them put away so we can hear about this next activity.

What to do if...

Most of the time, things will go smoothly, but every once in a while, you may run into a dilemma. Here's some advice on how to handle different challenges.



If my Crew won't stay together...

Encourage your Guide to come up with creative ways to travel. Or work with your Thank You-er to come up with cheers to say as you travel.

If I have a clique in my Crew...

Encourage friendships among all Crew members by pairing kids with partners they don't know very well during games and other activities. Offer reminders when needed that they're all superstars and that means caring for each other and that no one is left out.

If older kids are unhappy being grouped with mixed ages...

Highlight their helping role. Encourage them to help younger kids find Bible passages and other activities. Acknowledge them by telling younger kids, "[Name of older child] is really good at that. Why don't you ask him [or her] to help?"



If a Crew member won't participate...

Help shy children feel welcome by calling them by name and asking them questions directly. Respond to their questions with a smile and a statement such as "That's really interesting!" Also try giving children special jobs, such as finding a place for your Crew to sit at each station.

If someone *really* doesn't want to participate in games, that's okay. True North can be tiring! Let kids rest until they're ready to participate.

If people in my Crew don't get along...

Quietly take the children aside. Tell them you've noticed that they're not getting along. Let them know that although they don't have to be best friends, they do have to be together all week, so things will be a lot more fun if they can at least be kind to one another. (Use the daily Bible Points for these teachable moments!)

If I have an overly active child...

Pair this child with yourself for partner activities, and suggest that he or she sit with you during quiet times. Or give him or her a focused role of helping you keep the Crew on task and setting an example for everyone else. Or, ask your Director if you could have an assistant Crew Leader to help the child focus and participate.

If my Crew is out of control and unruly...

You can be direct in calling out behavior, but maintain the fun in your voice and language. It'll help you avoid setting a pace for a battle of wills. Use these fun True North puns to call attention to behaviors that need to stop:

- Cheating in games or other activities: "We have to follow the trail; let's get back to following directions!"
- Not paying attention to Station Leaders: "Trek back here and tune in. We need to listen."
- Distracted by side conversations or horse play: "Okay, goofy grizzlies! Paws down at your sides. Be as still as a hibernating bear while we listen."
- Complaining about activities at stations: "Let's show all our leaders *they're* our friends by showing respect. You may not love everything we do, but if you don't participate, you might miss out on something you didn't expect to be *amazing*."

If by midweek there are two or more kids in your Crew who just won't listen no matter what you try, it might be necessary to move a child or two to a different Crew. Talk to your Director about making a few Crew roster adjustments to help make sure each child gets the most out of the time at True North VBS.

If my Crew gets too big...

True North is mountains of fun, so it's likely that kids will want to bring friends. However, True North activities are designed to work with a mixed-age Crew of no more than five kids. If you have a small Crew, welcome a few additional friends into your Crew family. But if your Crew grows past five kids talk with your Director as soon as possible. He or she will need to form a new Crew so kids can have the best experience possible.



What do I do at each station?

Imagination Station is where kids experiment, play, and discover as they use amazing sciency-fun items from the Crew Discovery Pack.

At Imagination Station

- ▶ listen carefully to the instructions because you may need to repeat them for Crew members.
- ▶ use *your* imagination and share your curiosity as kids explore!
- ▶ help kids complete activities (when they need help).
- ▶ help clean up your area before leaving.

Glacier Games is where kids play team-building games and learn about Whisper Mountain. Your job at Glacier Games is to

- ▶ listen carefully to the instructions so you can help your Crew members follow them.
- ▶ participate in each activity, and cheer on your Crew members as they participate

Peak Rally is where kids worship by singing upbeat action songs, experience the daily drama and meet the Missionaries. Your job at Peak Rally is to

- ▶ take your crew to the restroom on the way to the Rally.
- ▶ follow the motions and sing out loud.
- ▶ help kids quiet down between songs so they can hear the Leader.

Many stations engage kids in discussions about real life and some of the struggles or challenges we face. If a child brings up a serious issue, such as indicators of neglect, abuse, or violence he or she has experienced, say, “Thank you for telling me about that. It’s very important, and we need to talk about it with our VBS Director and children’s minister to give you a chance to say everything you need to say—and help you with your feelings.” Involve the appropriate person at your church who can follow through with necessary steps after the conversation, as there is not only a moral but a legal obligation to report circumstances where a child might be in danger.

Wild Bible Adventures is where kids experience the Bible story. Be sure to

- ▶ gather with your Crew on your knee-to-knee blanket.
- ▶ listen carefully to hear how Crew Leaders should help out that day.
- ▶ encourage Crew members to participate.
- ▶ share your own discoveries during discussion times and your excitement during each Bible adventure.

McGregor Safety

- ▶ take your crew to the restrooms on the way to the Rally (Fellowship Hall). Those coming from the *Imagination Station* should use the restrooms on the 2nd floor, between Activity A & B. Those coming from *Bible* should use the restrooms on Main Street.
- ▶ Crew Leaders should use the restrooms in the Children’s lobby if possible.
- ▶ Crew Leaders should not go into the restrooms with the kids. Wait outside.
- ▶ No child should go to the restroom and be on Main Street by themselves. Have another leader watch your crew and escort the child and a second child for safety.
- ▶ Stay in groups and never be alone with a child.

Final Station is where kids are picked up by their parents. Your role is to

- ▶ help the leader with handing out the snacks.
- ▶ help your crew members clean up their area.
- ▶ hand out the Bible Buddy and Imagination items.
- ▶ assist the Station Leaders and Directors in matching the tags for the parents and crew members.
- ▶ make sure your Crew Members have their Bible memory verse bookmark and information on Whisper Mountain Camp.

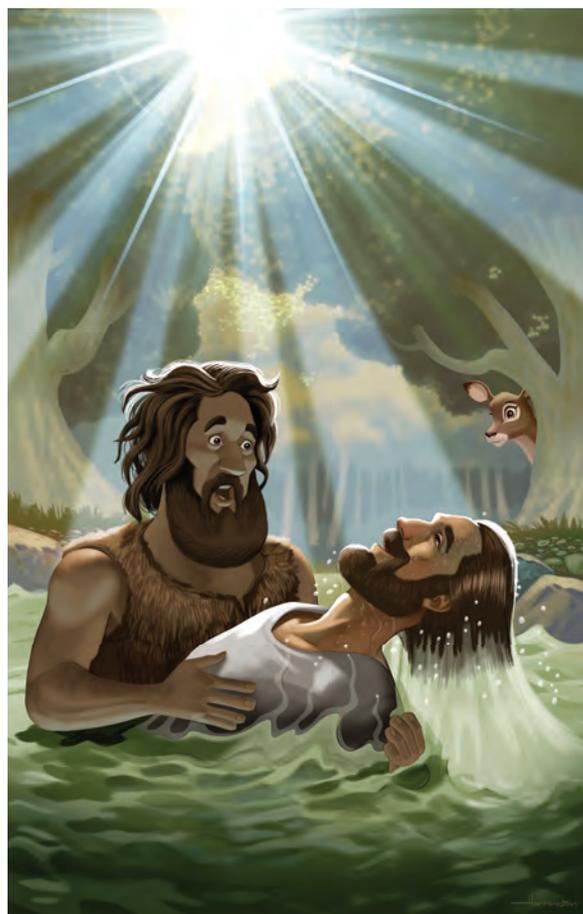
When we wonder, we can trust Jesus.

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)

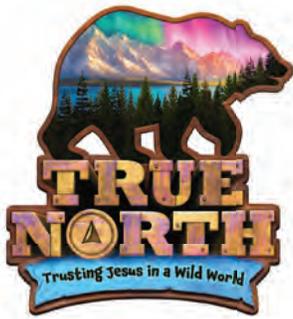
Jesus’ cousin John came with unconventional clothes, a pauper’s diet, and a bold message: “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” Meaning? Jesus—the Messiah and fulfillment of God’s kingdom on earth—is *here*! John proclaimed Jesus’ power and authority. He resisted the very idea of baptizing Jesus, 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.



Day 1

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



God Sightings®

Every day at True North, kids and leaders will share evidence they've seen of God. We call these *God Sightings*, and they're an easy, practical, and powerful way to help kids realize that God is still active in our everyday lives. The more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

Today help kids talk about *their* questions about faith. Here are a few examples:

- ▶ Share things you've wondered about God, and ways God has helped you find answers to your questions. Kids will appreciate your transparency, showing that even grown-ups struggle.
- ▶ Suggest Bible verses and songs that encourage us to trust God when things don't always make sense.
- ▶ Point out ways you see evidence of God around you—right at True North!

COMPASS CLUE

Don't forget to bring a knee-to-knee blanket for your crew! Sit in knee-to-knee circles for discussions. Call on different kids so everyone gets to participate!

COMPASS CLUE

A God Sighting is *not* "I see God in that tree." A God Sighting *is* "I see God's creativity and power because only God can make a tree." God Sightings are seeing things that God has created, allowed, provided, done, or revealed to us.

Day 1:

We are requesting that you come at 5:30pm on Monday, as the first day of VBS is confusing as kids and leaders get where they are going. Don't forget your knee-to-knee blanket or a large beach towel to gather your crew. You can drop off your blanket at your last rotation as you head to the Peak Rally. Don't forget your Crew Leader booklet so you can write the names of your Crew Members on the back page and check off as they say their memory verse. The leaders will gather for prayer each night in their first rotation. You can drop off your "under 3" kids in the Preschool at 5:15pm on Monday. Bring your VBS aged kids with you for prayer time and then at 6pm you can take them to their classroom. Leaders with kids can work together to get your kids where they need to go quickly.



Directions From Your Director

Jokes From Juneau

Why did Ponder cross the river?

To get to the "otter" side

Why did Ponder clean her room?
Because her mom told her she otter do it!

What is Ponder's favorite Bible verse?

"Do to otters whatever you would like them to do to you!"



Have you ever gotten water up your nose? Do you wonder how I can swim so fast without having that problem? God made river otters with a special ability to close their nostrils. Try to close your nostrils without touching them. Can't do it, can you? But for otters like me, it's no problem! I just close my nose and dive fast and deep!

Why was Clawdia in a bad mood?

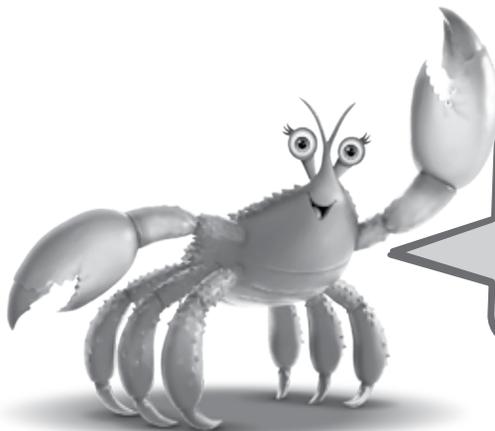
She felt a little crabby.

What did Clawdia say when her friend wouldn't share a toy?

"You're being shellfish!"

Why was the crab afraid to go in the tiny elevator?

She was claws-trophobic!



Have you ever played dress-up? Me too! Many crabs wear objects to hide from predators. We might wear shells, rocks, seaweed, or even smaller animals! Find something around you that you can put on to disguise yourself!

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)

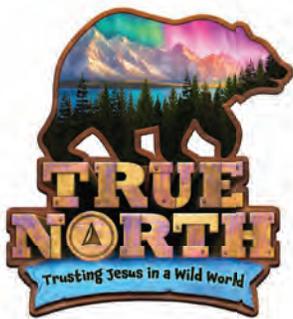
Jesus’ ministry had just begun when he stopped on a mountainside near Capernaum and began to speak...and speak...and speak! What we call the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus’ call to live a life pleasing to God. He covered practical topics such as prayer, divorce, enemies, and giving. No wonder a crowd of 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.



Day 2

Bible Point:
**When we feel alone,
we can... (trust Jesus!)**



God Sightings®

God Sightings are a great way to help kids see that God is active all around us. Remember, the more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

As a Crew Leader, you are the chief God Sightings encourager! Have fun with your Crew members as you look for God in action each day.

Today help Crew members identify people who've shown them Jesus' loving friendship. Here are a couple of examples:

- ▶ Thank God for parents and caregivers who love and listen to us..
- ▶ Point out ways kids at True North are showing Jesus-style friendship! Kids who welcome newcomers, help others, and thank leaders are God's hands and feet!

Wrap-up questions: Noodle Pals

ASK How did the game go when you were good partners for each other?

Tell about another time you had a good partner.

How does this game remind you of what it can be like when trying to make friends? Share an example of your own first, and then welcome kids' responses.

SAY Partnership means we are not alone. When we feel alone, we can... (trust Jesus!) He's a good partner and friend who's always by our side. And Jesus is with us as we partner together to help kids through Whisper Mountain Camp, our missionary friends.



Directions From Your Director _____

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)

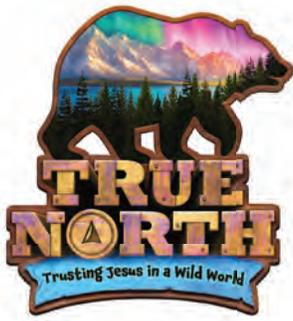
Capernaum, situated on the Sea of Galilee, boasted a Roman customs station and proximity to busy trade routes. Considering Rome’s occupation of the city, Roman soldiers likely patrolled the streets. Their presence offended plenty of devout Jews, who recoiled at the idea of worshipping many gods, among 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.



Day 3

Bible Point:
When we feel powerless,
we can... (trust Jesus!)



God Sightings®

Keep looking for evidence of God all around you.
Point out God's power!

Throughout the night, look for opportunities to remind kids that Jesus is a rock-solid friend who has the power to do anything. Encourage kids to...

- ▶ release their worries and anxiety, putting those things in Jesus' capable hands.
- ▶ remember ways Jesus has demonstrated his power in our lives (or ask adults to share their own stories with kids).
- ▶ praise Jesus, thanking him for using his power in our lives.



Wrap-up questions: Power Ball

SAY Without the wind power we put behind the ball, it wouldn't have moved. It's powerless without some help. When we feel powerless, we can... (trust Jesus!) He can share his power with us so we can do hard things. Jesus can also work in us to help others who are feeling powerless.

ASK Let's think of ways we can help others this week if we notice them struggling. Share an idea of your own first, such as helping others to feel welcome and part of your crew.

PRAY Jesus, we're thankful that you're powerful when we're not. Thank you for helping us do hard things. Show us how we can share your care and love with others when they feel powerless. In your name we pray, amen.



Directions From Your Director _____

Jokes From Juneau

What do eagles call it when they all perform their best skills?

Why didn't Earnest rob the fish bank?

What kind of puppy did Earnest want for a pet?

Because it's ill-eagle!

A beagle



When you picture an eagle like me, you probably picture me soaring through the sky or perched on a branch. But did you know I like water, too? It's true! Bald eagles can't swim underwater, but we can use our wings like oars and row our way to shore if we catch a fish that's too heavy to lift. Plus, we love to dip into the shallow water to take a bath! Show off your best eagle swimming strokes!

What do you call a country run by bears?

How did Kody stop the movie?

A hiber-nation

He hit the "paws" button!

Did Kody make it to school on time today?

Bear-ly



I'm diurnal. That just means I like to sleep at night and be awake during the day—hey, that's a lot like you! But if I have to compete with other bears for food or space, I can become more nocturnal (that means I'm awake at night and sleep during the day). I'll do what it takes to survive! That is...as long as I don't miss my six-month nap in the winter. Speaking of which, I'm feeling sleepy! Try yawning and see if you make other people yawn, too.

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)

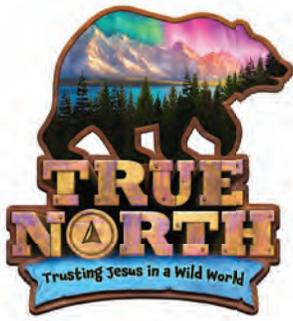
Everything about Jesus offended the religious leaders of the time. He forgave sins. He spent time with tax collectors and people of poor reputation. He seemed to disregard religious tradition. And he claimed to be the Messiah—the awaited Savior and King of God’s people. Their outrage culminated in Jesus’ 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

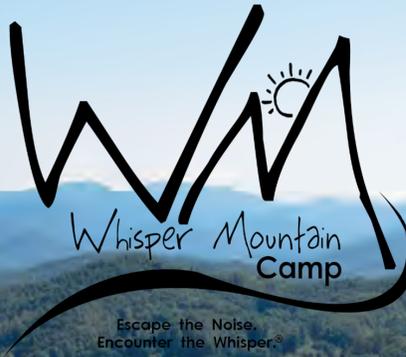
ASK Which obstacle was the toughest for you, and why?

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

All about my Crew



Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____