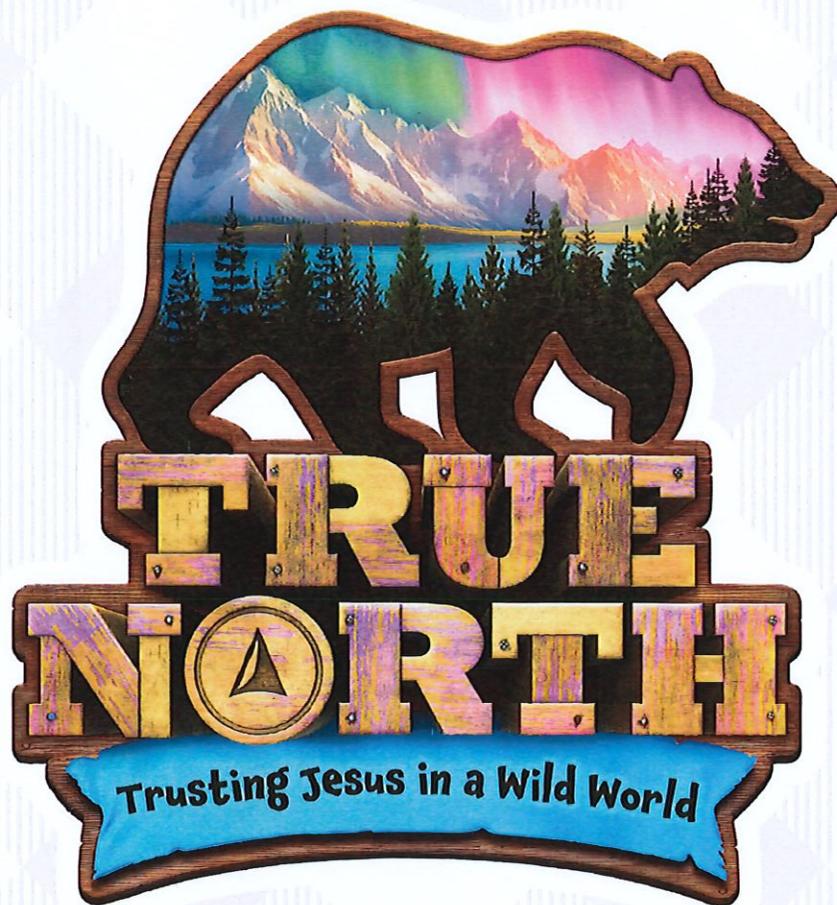


# Preschool Crew Leader Guide



# Welcome!

Guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today.

Point kids to Jesus, a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!

Preschoolers will experience amazing Bible adventures *and* watch for God in everyday life. Even young children can discover that God is active in their lives and that his fingerprints are *everywhere!*

So, what should you do first? Pray! Start praying for the children God will bring to McGregor, for the families they represent, for Kingdom impact, and for all the volunteers involved, including you, for lives to be changed, hearts to be touched, and His message to be received, all for His glory.

What is next? Complete the online training ([teamvbs.com](http://teamvbs.com)) and carefully read through your VBS leader guide so that you can best prepare to receive His children, keep them safe, and engage them in His truths. You will want to familiarize yourself with the policies and procedures, carefully review the stories in preparation to teach the children, look over the nightly schedule, Bible story, verse, games, and activities.

Below are a few more things to note about VBS:

## Preschool Care

- Preschool Care is available for volunteers' children who will not be 3 before May 31. When you register yourself as a volunteer, there is a place for you to register your young preschooler. Preschool care (younger than 3) will begin at 5:15PM on Monday and 5:45PM Tuesday-Thursday.

## VBS Times

- Be in place at 5:30PM on Monday and no later than 5:50PM on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- Drop-off for all other classes begins at 6:00PM.



## T-Shirts

- When you complete your training by **Monday, June 2**, you will receive a free VBS 2025 T-shirt.
- After you have read through the leader guide and watched the online training video, make sure to answer the review questions and submit your t-shirt size, so that you can pick up your VBS t-shirt from the Younger Preschool Counter.

## HeBrews Café

- For your convenience, HeBrews will be open on Main Street in the Hope Building nightly from 4:30PM to 7:00PM with VBS family-friendly menu items available for purchase. A menu and prices are found on the last page of this booklet.

## Family Night

- The whole family is invited Friday night at 6:15PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- Preschool and Children's Worship Teams will lead a fun-filled evening of music and drama to wrap up the week.
- We will also learn the winner of the mission challenge and finish with ice cream on Main Street for everyone.

If you have any questions about the material covered or would like more information, contact our team at 239-689-2570.

It is a blessing to serve with you.

## Your Preschool Ministry Team

**“And his name will be  
the hope of all the world.”**

**(Matthew 12:21)**

# Ministry Description for Preschool VBS Leaders

VBS is an exciting and energetic experience for children and teachers alike. But before the first decoration is hung or the first child is greeted, take a moment to think about the purpose of VBS...

- To meet and reach families in our community who otherwise might not hear the Word of God
- To teach preschoolers Bible truths and to lay a foundation for future spiritual growth
- To help preschoolers apply Biblical principles in their lives
- To grow personally as you meditate on each day's personal Bible study and prepare to teach

## Responsible To:

- Preschool Ministry Director, Carol Dasher (239-

## Purpose:

- To reach preschoolers and their families by serving as the front-line minister to the preschoolers during VBS

## Responsibilities:

- Exude Christ-like attitude
- Arrive early and be prepared each night for class before the preschoolers arrive
- Be sure to make each child feel welcome as they enter your classroom
- Lead preschoolers in rotation of activities each night
- Pay special attention to parents and kids to create a comfortable environment where they will be receptive to the Gospel message
- Model Christ's love to all preschoolers and families

## Time and Length of Commitment:

- Approximately 30 minutes prior to VBS to watch training video.
- June 9 from 5:30PM until 8:30PM
- June 10– June 13 5:50PM until 8:30PM

## Training:

- Online VBS Volunteer Training is found at [www.Mcgregor.net/teamvbs/](http://www.Mcgregor.net/teamvbs/)

## Special Qualifications:

- Passion for Preschoolers and their families
- Teachable and Cooperative Spirit
- Team Player



# Helpful Tips

## Pre-VBS Notes

Make sure to exchange information with the other teachers in your room.

Plan accordingly...

- How to coordinate drop-off and pick-up of your own children to ensure there is always a teacher in the room.
- Who will be in class early to set up and be ready for the children?
- Who will greet the children at the door?
- Who will begin the Opening Activity each night?
- Who will lead the prayer time?
- Who will introduce the story?
- Who will clean up?
- Who will do the closing activity?

## Classroom Activities

Your room will be equipped with an opening activity, Music CD, game, and closing activities that help reinforce the Bible story. Please use these activities in lieu of toys - this will save you valuable time at the end of the evening!

## Check-In & Pick-Up Procedures

- One teacher should be stationed at the doorway during check-in and pick-up.
- Parents will check their children in at the counter.
- Preschoolers may only be picked up in the classroom. Please ask parents to meet you back in the classroom if you encounter them while on rotations.
- Preschoolers must be picked up by an adult (age 18 or older) who shows the teacher the appropriate matching tag. If an unauthorized person arrives to pick up, please guide the person to a director.
- Please match the tag of the person picking up the preschooler with the tag on the child. If an unauthorized person arrives to pick up, please guide the person to a director.

## Interaction with Children

- Communicate positively. Enthusiasm is contagious!
- Preschoolers should sit next to, not in the laps of, teachers.
- Join in and be a Christ-like model for your class. Have fun! Sing and do the motions in worship time.
- Discipline stems from discipleship. Sad choices are a ministry opportunity for you to redirect children to a positive behavior. Please refrain from yelling or negatively touching a child. Seek a director's assistance if you need help.

## Quick Tips for Getting Their Attention

- Clapping Patterns: To gain children's attention, try clapping patterns. Clap twice, and then invite them to clap with you, repeat until entire class is clapping along. The older the class the more intricate patterns you can try with them.
- Whisper: **If you can hear (teacher's name) pat your belly (or other motion)**. Wait a second and repeat the movement or select another one. Quickly, most of the class will join you in the movement and give you the desired attention!
- Sing it out: You can utilize opera voices to ask kids to do things; they think this is so funny!

## Travel Between Rotations

- Do a head count before leaving each rotation, as you are walking to the next rotation, and when you arrive at your destination. Take your classroom list with you when you rotate.
- Use a walking rope to transition between activities or a transition strategy such as walking down the hall with bubbles and duck tails. (Please do NOT use the "Fingers on the wall" or line up against the wall method to keep your class in line.)
- Be sure all classroom items and children's belongings are left in the classroom.
- **Ask parents to meet you back in the classroom if you encounter them while on rotations.**

## Restrooms

- Restrooms are located in the classrooms and in the main hallways of the JOY Building. For your protection, males are not to take girls to the restroom or change diapers. If using the hallway restrooms, male leaders can monitor children in the hallway while other female leaders assist in the restrooms. When assisting in the classrooms, leave the door open.
- Only one preschooler should be allowed in the classroom restroom at a time. A teacher should supervise at the door, while remaining in full view of another teacher. A teacher should never be alone in the restroom with a child.

## Safety Issues

- In the event of an emergency, such as a power outage, severe weather storm, or any other threatening situation, a director will notify you and give you further information.
- If anything, out of the ordinary occurs, an Incident Report must be filled out. (*This includes things like bumps, trips, pushing a friend, anything that leaves a mark, child was scared or upset for any reason.*) Incident Reports are located in a drawer close to the classroom sink and they should be signed by the teacher, then a director, and finally the parent.

## End of The Night

- As children leave, make sure each child has their personal belongings.
- Before you leave, make sure to do a clean-up: wipe off tables/counters, spray and stack chairs. Spray any items in your room such as blocks, or other items that will be used again the next night and leave them to dry. If there is anything extra you need for the following evening, please notify your Director and we will do our best to provide those items. Reminder: most of your rooms will be used during the day by the SFCA day campers.

## TEACHERS:

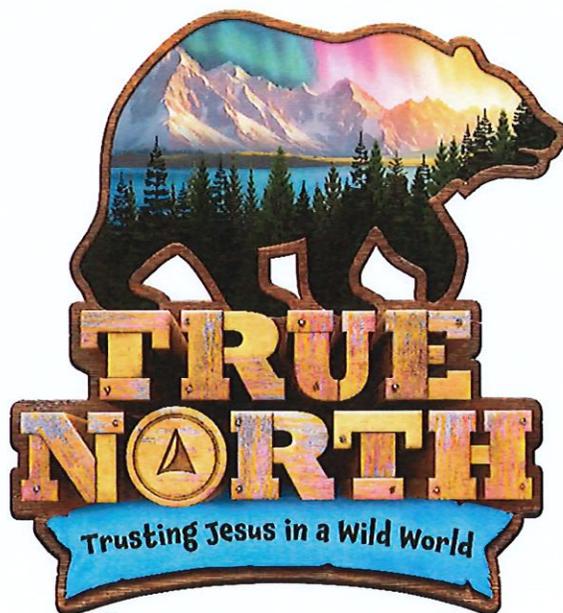
- Reset Room
  - Place daily supplies (scissors, tape, etc.) back in their designated cubbies by the door.
  - Place the extra craft and activity supplies back in the paper bag and bring to your Director and pick up the next night's bag.
  - Wipe Down and spray Counters/Tables
  - Fill water jugs in the fridge with the filtered water out of the sink faucet in room
  - Have a great evening! Get some rest, we want you ready and rested for the energy that these kids will bring each night.

## DIRECTORS:

- When teachers are gone, do a quick sweep of your rooms to make sure everything is put back and cleaned for the next night.
- Have a great evening! Continue to pray for the week and for God to do great things.

## CELL PHONES

- Cell phones are a great thing to help us keep in touch with loved ones. At VBS we want to give our children our full attention and love to show them how much God loves them.
- Cell phones should be turned off or on silent and put away in a purse, cabinet, or kept in your pocket for the duration of the evening.
- Each rotation has a director that will be keeping track of time, so you don't have to worry about when to head to the next rotation.
- NO PHOTOS – it is important to keep the privacy of our families and children in mind. Please do not take any photos of any children. Even if they are your own, there are others in the background that are not your own. We will have a professional photographer taking photos for us during VBS.



## What's a Crew Leader for preschoolers?

### A Crew Leader for preschoolers is...

a friend and helper, someone who helps children complete activities, who gets down on the floor to interact with children, who encourages kids, and someone who supports the Preschool VBS leaders.

A leader who will learn the names of the children and call children by name as much as possible.

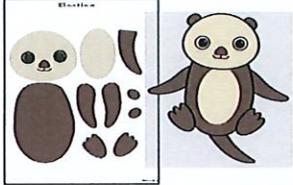
### Here's what you'll do

- Look into preschoolers' eyes when you speak to them. You may need to kneel or sit on the floor to do this.
- Empower children by offering them choices. Ask...  

“Would you like to make a craft or play with blocks?” Don't ask “What do you want to do?” or children may decide they want to do activities that are unavailable or inappropriate.
- Greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Sit with the children in your Crew during group activities. Keep your Crew members together and help them participate in the activities.
- Accompany children to preschool stations. If necessary, read the instructions at each station, and help children complete the activities. Distribute supplies as needed.
- Always make sure all children are accounted for before leaving the room! Be sure children hold hands or a rope as you rotate between stations. Remember to use kind, gentle, positive words. If a child lags, remind him or her to stay with the Crew. You might want to walk behind your Crew so you can keep all the children in view and avoid traveling too fast.
- Help children think about how we can see what God is doing all around us. Talk about how fun it is to see the amazing things God has made or the way God shows His love to us. (Those are called God Sightings!)

I ♥ VBS

# Weekly Overview

	Overview	Bible Story	Opening and Closing Activities	Craft
Monday	<p><b>Bible Point:</b> When we wonder, we can... <i>(trust Jesus!)</i></p> <p><b>Bible Verse:</b> "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise." Matthew 7:24</p>	<p><b>Bible Story:</b> John prepares the way and baptizes Jesus. Matthew 3; 11:1-6</p> 	<p>Game: Parachute- Wonder Where</p>  <p>Bible Verse Review and activity page</p>	<p>Floating Otter</p> 
Tuesday	<p><b>Bible Point:</b> When we feel alone, we can... <i>(trust Jesus!)</i></p> <p><b>Bible Verse:</b> "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)</p>	<p><b>Bible Story:</b> Jesus teaches about God's love for us. Matthew 6:25-33; 18:12-14</p> 	<p>Game: Pond Pick Up</p>  <p>Game: Ice Paring Bible Verse Review and activity page</p>	<p>Sparkling Snow Globe</p> 
Wednesday	<p><b>Bible Point:</b> When we feel powerless, we can... <i>(trust Jesus!)</i></p> <p><b>Bible Verse:</b> "'Don't be afraid,' he said, 'Take courage. I am here!'" Matthew 14:27</p>	<p><b>Bible Story:</b> A Roman officer trusts Jesus. Matthew 8:5-13</p> 	<p>Game: Calm the Chaos</p>  <p>Game, Bible Verse Review and activity page</p>	<p>Create a Mountain Range</p>  <p>Ring Toss</p>
Thursday	<p><b>Bible Point:</b> When we need hope, we can... <i>(trust Jesus!)</i></p> <p><b>Bible Verse:</b> "And his name will be the hope of all the world." Matthew 12:21</p>	<p><b>Bible Story:</b> Jesus dies and comes back to life. Matthew 26:47-28:8</p> 	<p>Game: Helping Hands</p>  <p>Game, Bible Verse Review and activity page</p>	<p>Wilderness Scene</p> 

## Nightly Schedule by Age Group

### YOUNGER PRESCHOOL ROOMS: H101. H102. H103. H104. H105. H106. H107. H108.

- 5:50-6:00 Teacher Arrival & Classroom set-up  
*\*Teachers are encouraged to be in place by 5:30PM on Monday.*
- 6:00-6:20 Children Arrive/Opening Activity
- 6:25-6:50 Story Time in H100
- 6:55-7:20 Worship Time in the J.A.M. room
- 7:25-7:50 Games, Crafts, Bible Verse Review and More Fun in classroom
- 7:55-8:15 Closing Activity in the room

### OLDER PRESCHOOL ROOMS: H115. H116. H117. H119. H120. H121. H122. H124. H125. H126

- 5:50-6:00 Teacher Arrival & Classroom set-up  
*\*Teachers are encouraged to be in place by 5:30PM on Monday.*
- 6:00-6:20 Children Arrive/Opening Activity
- 6:25-6:50 Worship Time in the J.A.M. room
- 6:55-7:20 Games, Crafts, Bible Verse Review and More Fun in classroom
- 7:25-7:50 Story Time in H100
- 7:55-8:15 Closing Activity in the room

### COMPLETED KINDERGARTEN ROOMS: J103. J104. J105. J106. J107.

- 5:50-6:00 Teacher Arrival & Classroom set-up  
*\*Teachers are encouraged to be in place by 5:30PM on Monday.*
- 6:00-6:20 Children Arrive/Opening Activity
- 6:25-6:50 Games, Crafts, Bible Verse Review and More Fun in classroom
- 6:55-7:20 Story Time in H100
- 7:25-7:50 Worship Time in the J.A.M. room
- 7:55-8:15 Closing Activity in the room



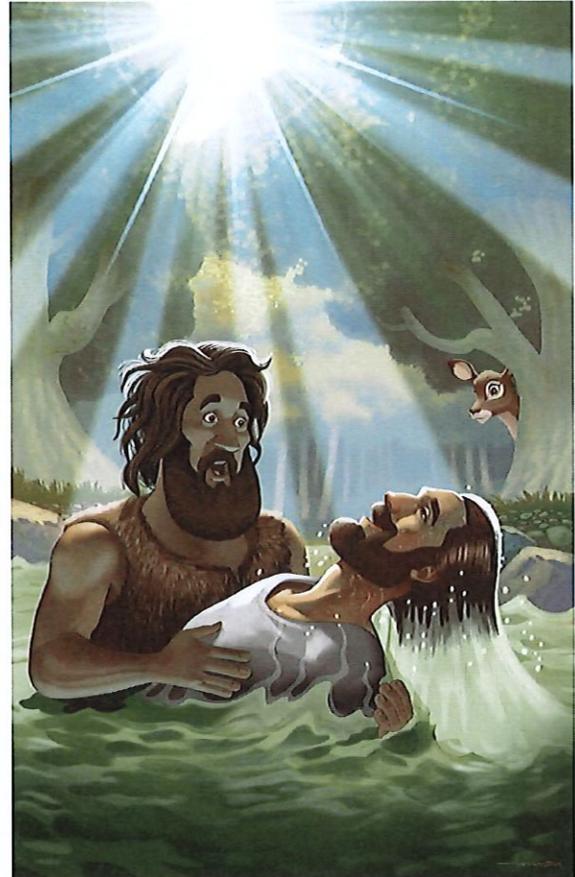
## When we wonder, we can trust Jesus.

**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.

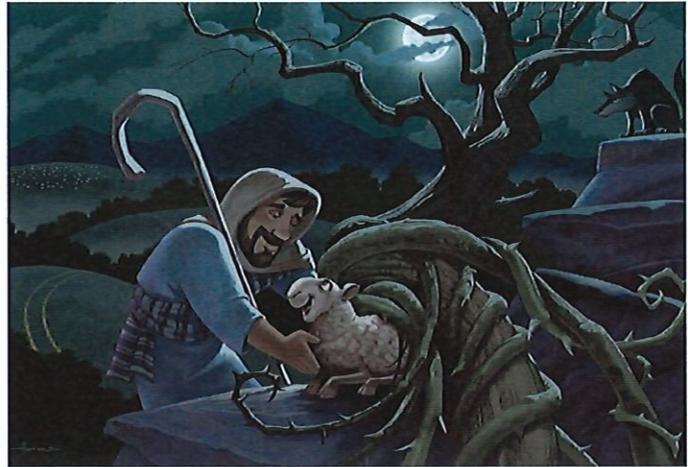
## When we feel alone, we can trust Jesus.

**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.

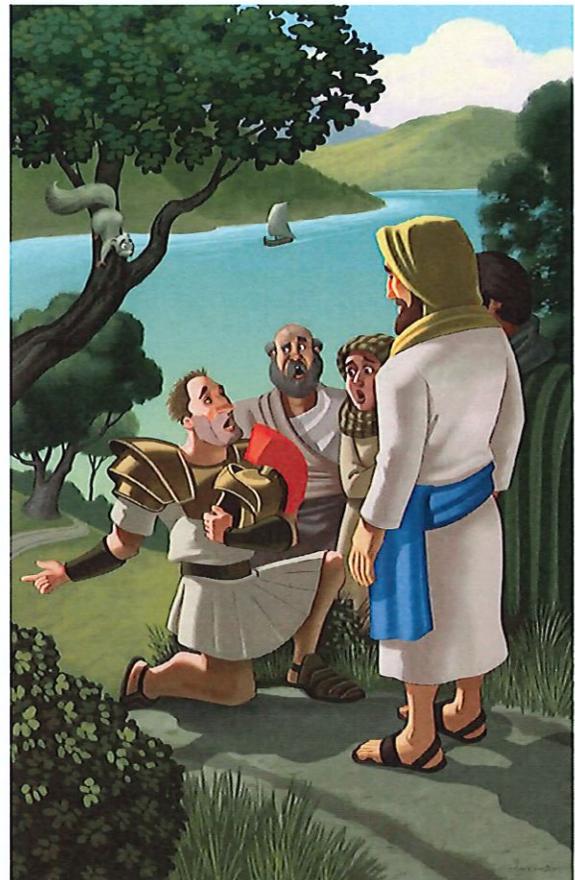
## When we feel powerless, we can trust Jesus.

**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)

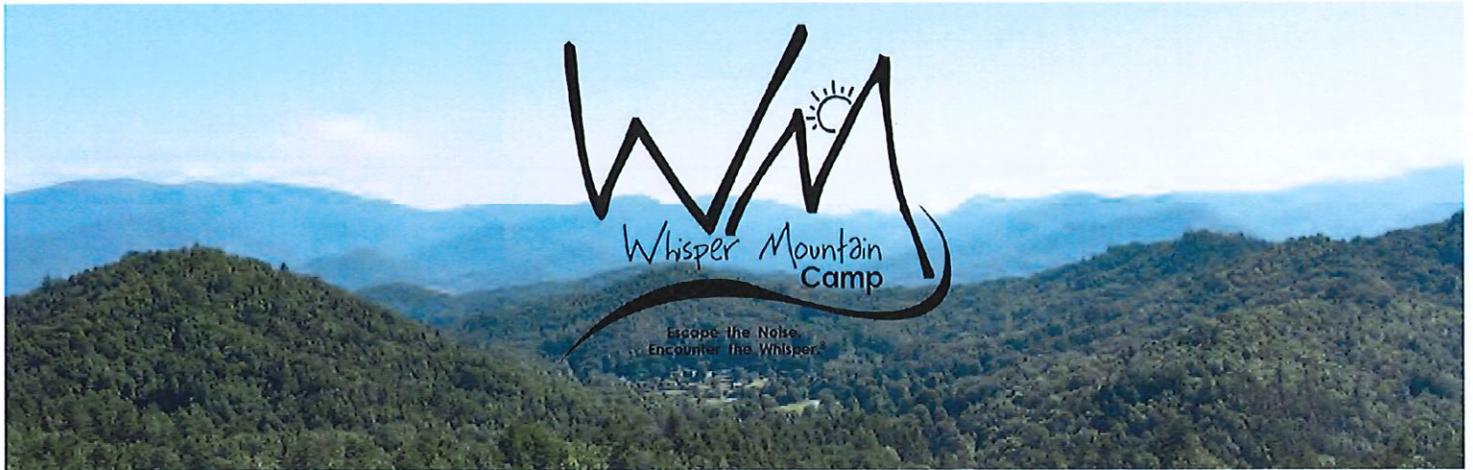
Everything about Jesus offended the religious leaders of the time. He forgave sins. He spent time with tax collectors and people of poor reputation. He seemed to disregard religious tradition. And he claimed to be the Messiah—the awaited Savior and King of God’s people. Their outrage culminated in Jesus’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



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](http://WhisperMountain.org)



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

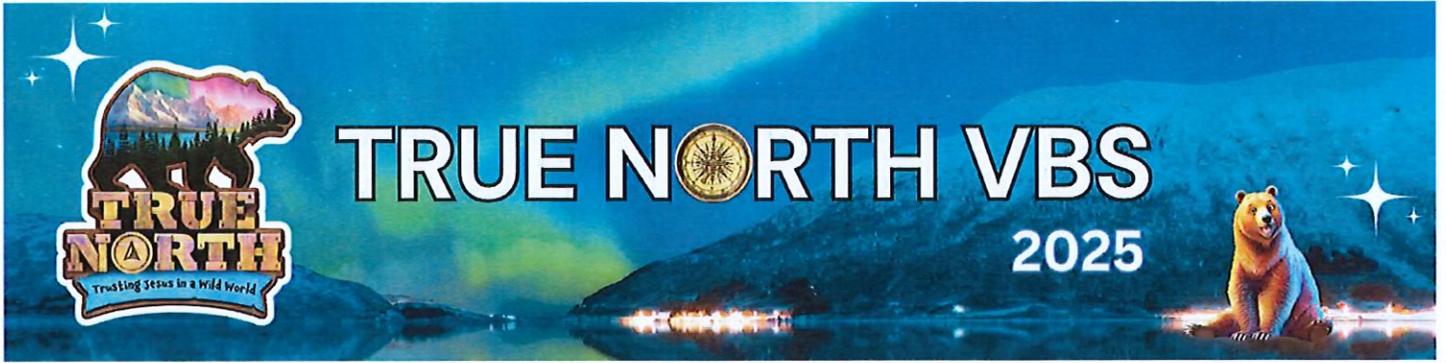


**“And his name will be the hope of all the world.”**  
 (Matthew 12:21)

## 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



Thank you for  
Serving with us  
at VBS!

