



# DIRECTOR'S GUIDE

## WELCOME

Welcome to Heroes Home Edition VBS! This exciting program is all about kid heroes from the Bible, and we have provided all the tools you need to lead a virtual VBS. This program is designed for your church to host a watch party or use Zoom to broadcast your Vacation Bible School program for families in your church and community. With schools going online and church programs happening virtually, the kids and parents in your church and community are used to online interaction. So, invite kids to be part of a fun and educational experience at home.

This Director's Guide is designed to help you plan a fun and successful program online or in your home. We've included a basic overview of the program along with detailed station information. You will also find a volunteer list, information about publicizing your program, and tips for staying connected with families after VBS is over.

We want to provide support and encouragement as you embark on this journey to bring kids into a relationship with Jesus and help them understand how His love can impact their lives. It is our prayer that God's peace and grace will fill your heart and encourage you. May God bless and guide you in sharing Jesus with kids and families.

### **How is Heroes Home Edition Similar to the Heroes VBS Kit?**

Heroes Home Edition features the same setting, Bible verse, Action Points, songs, and Bible characters. Kids will learn the same message – that they can make a big difference by doing small things.

### **How is Heroes Home Edition Different from the Heroes VBS Kit?**

Kids will experience Heroes Home Edition at home with their families rather than at church with a Crew. Heroes Home Edition does not include crafts, snacks or games. In addition, the Bible stories are presented through puppet skits that are included in the daily PowerPoint presentations.

Produced by North American Division Children's Ministries

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# GETTING STARTED

To get started, visit [HeroesHomeEdition.org](http://HeroesHomeEdition.org) to download the files you'll need to lead this program.

## What You'll Need to Download:

- **Opening & Closing Scripts and PowerPoint Presentations**—The Opening & Closing scripts are for the leader to use as they begin and end the program each day. The PowerPoint slides include all the transitions between the stations, music videos, Bible stories, and activities. Everything is set up for you to use Zoom or the streaming platform that your church uses to share the Heroes VBS program with families from your church and community. You can customize the PowerPoint slides to personalize them for your church.
- **Social Media Graphics**—Customize these graphics to advertise your Heroes program on social media.
- **Zoom Background**—If you are leading Heroes Home Edition through Zoom, you can use the background showing Bethany. You can also decorate your own background to look like a village from the Bible. There are lots of ideas on our website, so check out the regular Heroes program.
- **Daily Handouts**—Each family participating in Heroes Home Edition will need printed copies of the daily handouts. If you are leading Heroes Home Edition through Zoom, you will need to share these handouts with each family that is participating. You can email the files to each household or have them download the files from [HeroesHomeEdition.org](http://HeroesHomeEdition.org). If you want a more personalized connection with participants you can print the activities and put them in a Heroes string bag along with a t-shirt and the daily Bible Heroes. Then have the bags available for pickup at a designated time and place, or drop them off to each family who has registered for your program.

## Creating a Facebook Watch Party

A Facebook watch party is a great option for your VBS. You can create a watch party from your news feed or timeline, in a group, on a page, or from any video you're watching. See page 7 for instructions.

## Can I Do This at Home?

If your church isn't going to provide a VBS program this summer, you can still offer Heroes Home Edition to the families in your church and community. Everything they need to have a program right in their own living room is available at [HeroesHomeEdition.org](http://HeroesHomeEdition.org). There is a complete video of the opening program, all the stations, and activities they can do as a family available as a free download. There is also a family download so the parents/guardians can help guide their kids through the activities.



## OVERVIEW OF THE THEME

Our program takes place in the small city of Bethany, just down the road from Jerusalem. The setting is modern-day Bethany, but much of the town and what people wear and do is the same as it was in Bible times. In the opening program, the VBS leader or parent/guardian will welcome the kids to Bethany and introduce the Action Point and Key Verse for the day. This person will also introduce the Bible Heroes and remind the kids how they made a big difference in a small way. Each day the kids will learn about a small thing they can do that will make a big difference too.

### Action Points and Bible Hero

The Action Points summarize what the kids learn from their Bible Hero each day. These are statements the kids and their families say together. This year we have added actions to go with each Action Point.

- Day 1–Miriam will help the kids remember, “Be brave...Jesus is with me!”
- Day 2–Samuel will help the kids remember, “Be devoted...Jesus is with me!”
- Day 3–Nora, Naaman’s servant girl, will help the kids remember, “Be caring...Jesus is with me!”
- Day 4–Rhoda will help the kids remember, “Be bold...Jesus is with me!”
- Day 5–Jesse, the boy with the loaves and fish, will help the kids remember, “Be generous...Jesus is with me!”

### Key Verse

This year we have a longer Key Verse, so we have broken it down into segments that kids learn each day. We will start with the first part, then build on it each day so that by the end of the week, the kids know the entire verse by memory.

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalms 27:1 NKJV

We add Key Verse slides to the PowerPoint presentation each day so the kids can easily learn the new segment. Motions are included to further imprint the verse on the hearts of the kids.

### Stations

Here are the stations for Heroes Home Edition. You will see that each one is based in and around Bethany. And at each station we reinforce the daily Action Point.

- Bethany (Opening and Closing Program)
- Marketplace (Introduction to the Bible Story)
- Discovery House (Bible Story Station)
- Oasis (Prayer Station)
- Arena (Visit Interesting Animals)
- Carpenter Shop (Daily Challenge)

#### VBS Swag

Leaders and families joining Heroes at home can purchase Heroes t-shirts, string bags, and Bible Heroes with the Action Point. Visit [HeroesHomeEdition.org](http://HeroesHomeEdition.org) or call *AdventSource* at 402.486.8800.

### Bethany – Opening & Closing Program

Each day starts in Bethany, the opening station. The leader will use the script to welcome the kids and introduce the daily Bible Hero, Action Point, and Key Verse. Next, they will start the daily PowerPoint presentation which includes the daily songs, skits, Bible stories, and activities. Families will join their kids in participating in all the activities at home.

## Music

Heroes has some new songs and ones that your kids may already know. Your kids are going to love these songs. We have a mix of songs that will get the kids excited and songs that are more reflective and encourage commitment. Music videos with lyrics and actions are included in the PowerPoint presentations. Here are the song titles:

- Heroes (Theme Song)
- I Have Decided/Steps
- Today I Will Go
- Listen to Your Voice
- Generous
- My Promise

The songs are also available for families to purchase and download at [AdventSource.org](http://AdventSource.org). Kids will love singing these songs long after VBS is over!

## Bible Heroes & Action Points

Each day the kids will be introduced to a Bible Hero who was a kid when they did something small that made a big difference. The Bible Heroes correspond with each day's Action Point.

- Day 1 – Miriam – watched over Moses and asked Pharaoh's daughter if she could help
  - Action Point – "Be brave...Jesus is with me!"
- Day 2 – Samuel – listened for God's voice
  - Action Point – "Be devoted...Jesus is with me!"
- Day 3 – Nora, Naaman's servant girl – told Naaman about the prophet Elisha
  - Action Point – "Be caring...Jesus is with me!"
- Day 4 – Rhoda – told the adults that it was Peter knocking at the door
  - Action Point – "Be bold...Jesus is with me!"
- Day 5 – Jesse, the boy with the loaves and fish – gave Jesus his lunch
  - Action Point – "Be generous...Jesus is with me!"

### Who are Nora and Jesse?

You will notice that we have given names to the "servant girl" and the "boy with the loaves and fish." The Bible doesn't tell us their names, but we know they had names. To help kids connect with these Bible Heroes, we have decided to give them names – though you should be sure to tell the kids that we don't really know their names (and we have written it into the scripts to remind you).

## CLOSING PROGRAM

At the closing program, the kids will review the Action Point, Key Verse and participate in the mission project. Then the leader will provide a short wrap-up message and prayer.



## DIRECTOR'S TIPS

We are excited that you are leading Heroes at Home! It may seem like a monumental task, but recruiting a few helpers will make your job much easier and more enjoyable. If you are at a large church, you may want to consider recruiting an assistant director. Start planning early and distribute duties early enough to give your volunteers adequate time to get the creative energy flowing. Build the excitement by keeping the members of your congregation informed and inviting them to pray for this outreach event.

### Appreciate Your Volunteers

Appreciation is an easy way to affirm others and show that you notice them and recognize their efforts. This will go a long way in encouraging your helpers and others to volunteer in the future. Some ideas on how to appreciate your volunteers may include:

- Taking the time to recognize individuals publicly
- Saying thank you to them privately
- Sending them thank you cards
- Organizing an appreciation party for them after VBS is over

### Follow Up

Sometimes we forget that VBS is an outreach program. Your VBS program should be the beginning of an outreach effort by your church to the families of your community that continues throughout the year. Follow-up may include:

- Sending a card inviting them to visit the church again.
- Creating a yearly plan to bring the kids together periodically, such as a fall festival, Christmas party, Easter event, or church family social.
- Inviting them to be involved in the children's programs at your church such as Sabbath School, Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs, children's choir, and/or sports ministries.
- Each year the Children's Sabbath program uses some of the same elements as VBS. Kids will recognize the music and sing along!

## RECRUITING AND STAFF TRAINING

Here are some great ways to recruit volunteers:

- Sending people personal invitations. This is the best recruiting method. It's an opportunity to share your vision about how God can use volunteers and this program to reach the children.
- Praying for God to send you the individuals you need.
- Placing announcements in the church's email newsletter and asking the pastor to make an announcement during the worship service.
- Inviting people over the phone, text, or email.

### Once you have your volunteers, here are some ways to equip them:

- Providing ministry descriptions that describe their responsibilities.
- Making sure they have the essential equipment they need to do their job.
- Providing the appropriate resourcesOffering training through mentoring and planning sessions.
- Supporting them and affirming them profusely.

(Adapted from *Pastor's and Elder's Handbook for Children's Ministries* [Children's Ministries Department and Ministerial Association, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists], pp. 24–28.)

# JOB DESCRIPTIONS

## Director

The director plans for the overall needs of the staff and organizes the time (such as scheduling) and the details of the program. The director is a behind-the-scenes organizer. Some of the responsibilities of the director include:

- Scheduling the Heroes program
- Advertising the Heroes program on the church's social media accounts and website
- Downloading the Heroes Home Edition files from [HeroesHomeEdition.org](http://HeroesHomeEdition.org)
- Recruiting any necessary helpers
- Working with the children's ministries coordinator on follow-up
- Communicating with families to make sure they know how to access your program and the daily handouts

## Program Leader

The program leader will welcome the kids and their parents/guardians to Heroes each day and lead everyone through the stations. This person needs to be comfortable in front of a video camera and must be able to communicate excitement to the kids even though they are not right in front of them.

## Media Specialist

The media specialist will be a particularly important part of your VBS team because everything will be delivered by Zoom. This person will make sure you have a good microphone, video camera, and lighting. They will also make sure that your Internet connection has enough bandwidth to share the music videos that are a part of the PowerPoint. Be sure to work with your media specialist to conduct a test before going live with your program!

## Promotion Leader

Since your church may not be meeting every week, the person responsible for promotion is going to need to do a lot online. Of course, you can send out postcards inviting the kids that attended last year to join your special VBS. This year Facebook posts, church website announcements, email newsletters, and texts are going to be more important than ever. Make sure to remind your church members to invite their friends with kids.

## Registration Leader

Since everything is going to be online it is very important that you have families register their kids. That way you can send out emails as your VBS date approaches letting the parents/guardians know what they need to do to get ready. You also want to send an email to everyone at the end of the program each day thanking them for being part of Heroes Home Edition and inviting them back. You could also include a link where they can donate to the mission project.

## Follow-up Leader

This person should plan and execute events and activities during the year between VBS programs. Refer this person to the *Quick Start Guide for Child Evangelism*, available from [AdventSource](http://AdventSource.org) at [AdventSource.org](http://AdventSource.org) or 402.486.8800. The follow-up leader can work with the children's ministries coordinator or Sabbath School leaders to invite the everyone who attended VBS to your Children's Sabbath for a "mini VBS" program. This is an excellent follow-up program for your church. Take advantage of it! (You can find Children's Sabbath program ideas at [ChildMin.org](http://ChildMin.org).)

# THANK YOU!

In these challenging times it is more important than ever that our kids are connected with Jesus. Heroes Home Edition is a tool for you to use to encourage kids to say "YES" to Jesus. Thank you for your commitment to our children.



# CREATING A FACEBOOK WATCH PARTY

A great option for your VBS is a Facebook watch party. You can create a watch party from your news feed or timeline, in a group, on a page, or from any video you're watching. You need to be an admin or editor to start a watch party on a page.

## How to Create a Watch Party From Your Facebook News Feed or Timeline

- At the top of your news feed or timeline, click 'Create Post.' Then click 'Watch Party.'
- Search for the Heroes Home Edition video feed from your church.
- Click 'Add to Queue' to add Heroes to your watch party, then click 'Done.'
- You can choose to add a description for your watch party, then click 'Post.' You'll see a message that says, "Your Watch Party Is About to Begin."
- Once you're in the watch party you can add friends to watch with you.

## How To Create a Watch Party from a Facebook Page

- From your news feed, click 'Pages' in the left menu, then select your Page where you'd like to post the watch party.
- Click 'Create Post' or 'Write a post' at the top of the page, then click 'Watch Party.'
- Search for the Heroes Home Edition video feed from your church.
- Click 'Add to Queue' to add Heroes to your watch party, then click 'Done.'
- You can choose to add a description for your watch party, then click 'Post.' You'll see a message that says, "Your Watch Party Is About to Begin."
- When someone joins your watch party, you'll see their profile picture in the bottom left of your screen.

## While You're in Your Watch Party

Once your watch party starts, you can:

- Add videos: Click 'Add Video' on the right to add additional videos to the queue.
- Invite friends to click the 'Share' in the bottom left to invite friends to your watch party.
- Add comments: Click 'Write something...' in the bottom right to chat with others who are in the watch party with you. You can click 😊 to add an emoji or 📎 to add a sticker to your comments.  
End your watch party by clicking '...' in the top right of the video, then click 'End Watch Party.'

## After Your Watch Party Ends

Once you finish your watch party, a recap will be saved on your timeline as a post, which will show all videos watched during the party along with any comments that were made.

# AV TIPS FOR CHURCHES DOING ONLINE VBS

- **Good Internet Connection**—The computer you will be streaming from should be connected via ethernet rather than WiFi.
- **Good Lighting**—When using a camera to stream, have good lighting for your subject.
- **Latest Software Version**—Make sure you have the latest version of the software you are using to stream or broadcast.
- **Practice, Test, Practice, Test**—Pre-production planning helps to smooth many hick-ups. Always test your process (LIVE feed) before the day of your broadcast.
- **Additional Personnel**—Have an additional person to help with your production needs. You can make that person a co-host on Zoom to help manage all the behind-the-scenes needs.