

Child Safety

As a VBS volunteer, I will:

- Always provide appropriate supervision for the children at VBS.
- Have at least one other VBS volunteer to help with the supervision of children. If I find myself in a situation where I am the only VBS volunteer present, under no circumstances will I allow myself to be alone with one child (the “two-person rule”).
- Ask a child’s permission before physically touching him/her anywhere, even when responding to an injury or problem. This is especially true for any areas that would normally be covered by a t-shirt and/or shorts. If an injury is within this area, I will make sure another adult works with me as care is provided.
- Refrain from physical and verbal attacks and corporal punishment. “Time outs” or “sit-in-that-chair” may be helpful discipline methods to use with children.
- Affirm children with appropriate touching by keeping hugs brief and shoulder-to-shoulder or side-to-side. I will keep my hands at (not below) the shoulder level. For small children who like to sit on laps, I will encourage them to sit next to me.
- Provide extra care when taking small children to the restroom. I will take another adult along or leave the door open.
- Be aware of conducting activities in rooms that do not have an interior viewing area, or I will leave the door open during the activity to allow easy observation by others.
- Complete and be approved by the volunteer screening process.
- Be aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and aware of the legal requirements for reporting suspected cases of abuse. In addition to any legally required reporting, I agree that if I become aware of any behavior by another individual which seems abusive or inappropriate toward children I am supervising, I will report that behavior to the VBS Director.
- Uphold the standards of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Crew Leader’s Guide

Crew Name: _____

Crew Leader Name: _____

Kids in this Crew:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Introduction

Thunder Island is a place where God speaks from the thunder. Your Crew of kids will learn that Jesus is always with them, and you are here to help guide your Crew members through each activity. Remember when you went camping, swimming, or stayed overnight with friends – wasn’t that fun? This is how we want the kids to feel at Thunder Island VBS – like they are part of a big family! You will have one of the most important jobs during VBS! Because of your enthusiasm, friendliness, and passion, the kids will want to come back to VBS every day. And when they come back, they will get to hear stories from the Bible. You will have an opportunity to develop a relationship with each Crew member as you journey from station to station. Traveling and having fun is your job! Remember that you are not in charge of the stations. Rather, your role is to help the kids as they participate in the activities.

Tips for Crew Leaders

- Participate! Sing the songs and do the motions. Play the games. Be enthusiastic about the crafts. Be attentive during the Bible story and encourage praying together in the prayer station. This is very important!
- Support and encourage the Station Leaders by asking them how you can help.
- Enjoy your Crew! Be enthusiastic. Give shoulder bumps or high-fives throughout the day. Show them that they are the best Crew! Watch for opportunities to encourage your Crew members. Silence your phone and give your total attention to the kids.
- Arrive early so you are there when your Crew members arrive. This also gives you the opportunity to see if your VBS Director needs any help preparing for the program. Also plan to stay 15-30 minutes after VBS to help clean and set up for the next day. You are important to the kids and to the success of the program.
- Get to know your kids' names and use their names often. Say, "Hi Austin, glad you are with us today!" and "Welcome, Elizabeth! I'm glad you're in our Crew!"

Tips for Connecting with Your Crew

- If your Crew members arrive before the program starts, play a fun little game with them such as Duck, Duck, Goose or Simon Says.
- Ask Crew members to tell you about their favorite game or food and share your own preferences also.
- When passing another Crew while going from station to station, exchange high-fives with as many of the other kids as you can. Encourage your Crew to do the same.
- Give yourself a hug and encourage all your kids to give themselves a hug too.
- Always make sure your Crew members are following you. Count, count, and count again.
- Have fun with the kids! Laugh and smile. Make direct eye contact with each child and address them by their name. "Hey (kid's name), good to see you again! High-five!"

Crew Names

Each Crew is given the name of a tropical fruit as they travel through the VBS program. Remember to call your Crew by name as you move from station to

station. You can also introduce your Crew to the Station Leaders using your Crew name.

1. Banana
2. Coconuts
3. Mangos
4. Pineapples
5. Guavas

Stations

Each station you visit has a name. When you talk to your Crew, call each station by its name. For example, say, "Let's go to the Scuba Shack now" when you are traveling to the prayer station.

Below is the list of the station names:

- Turtle Cove – Opening & Closing Program
- Cascade Waterfall – Bible Story Station
- Scuba Shack – Prayer Station
- Sandcastle Crafts – Craft Station
- Coral Beach – Game Station
- Coconut Café – Snack Station

How to Handle Challenges

While we hope that VBS goes smoothly you may occasionally run into a challenge. Here's some advice on how to handle different challenges:

Question: What if my Crew won't stay together?

Try this: Come up with creative ways to travel, such as creating an echo cheer or chant: "In this Crew we stand as one. With Jesus by our side the victory is won!"

Question: What if I have an active child?

Try this: You be this child's partner during activities and suggest that he or she sits with you during quiet times. You can also make a game of sitting still by saying, "Let's see how long you can sit still without interrupting. I'm timing you. Ready? Go!"

Question: What if some of my kids don't get along?

Try this: Quietly take the children aside. Let them know that you've noticed that they are not getting along very well. Be kind but firm. Share that it's not okay to fight and argue, and that VBS will be a lot more fun if they choose to get along and be kind to one another.

**Let your Director know if you have any other challenges that may require intervention.*

Day 1

Bible Story: Woman at the Well

Power Point: Jesus loves me. Always! Relax!

Actions: Cross arms over chest. Stretch arms open wide. Make Shaka sign with pinkie and thumb out.

Key Verse: I give a new rule to you. Love one another.

Today's Bible story is about a woman who discovered something very interesting at a well. She learned that Jesus loved her more than anyone else could. We will learn that Jesus loves us always. And we can relax knowing that Jesus loves us.

Here are some ideas for your group today in Thunder Island:

- Compliment a Station Leader. They are doing a great job! Station Leaders will value your appreciation, and it will be a good example to your Crew.
- When you pass another Crew on your way to the next station, give high-fives to as many of the other kids as you can. Encourage your Crew to do the same.
- Practice the Power Point with your Crew.
- Thank another Crew Leader for doing an awesome job. You can even say, "You are an awesome Crew Leader!"
- Give yourself a good stretch by reaching your arms as high as you can. Say, "Jesus is always with me! Stretch with me!"
- Participate in the music and encourage your Crew to participate with you.
- Comment on something that is really cool at each station. Your enthusiasm will be catching!
- Have fun with your Crew! Laugh and smile. Get eye to eye with each of your kids and call them by their name.

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Day 2

Bible Story: Man at the pool of Bethesda

Power Point: Jesus values me. Always! Relax!

Actions: Put both forearms in front of you and close hands to make a fist. Stretch arms open wide. Make shaka sign with pinkie and thumb out.

Key Verse: I give a new rule to you. Love one another. You must love each other as I have loved you.

Today's Bible story is about a man who made an interesting discovery while at a pool in Bethesda. He learned the Jesus valued him. We will learn that we should value others just like Jesus valued the man at the pool.

Here are some ideas for your Crew today in Thunder Island:

- Find moments to pray a simple prayer with your Crew members. Ask for prayer requests and be respectful and attentive to their requests.
- Compliment a Station Leader. They are doing a great job! Station Leaders will value your appreciation, and it will be a good example to your Crew.
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- Thank another Crew Leader for doing an awesome job. You can even say, "You are an awesome Crew Leader!"
- Do some jumping jacks and encourage your Crew to do the same. Say, "Jesus is always with me! Now let's do as many jumping jacks as we can!"
- Participate in the music and encourage your Crew to participate with you.
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Day 3

Bible Story: Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus

Power Point: Jesus accepts me. Always! Relax!

Actions: Hug yourself around stomach. Stretch arms open wide. Make Shaka sign with pinkie and thumb out.

Key Verse: I give a new rule to you. Love one another. You must love each other as I have loved you. In this way, everyone will know you are my disciples.

It is already Day 3! The Bible story today is about what Zacchaeus discovered. He learned that Jesus accepted him first, even before he had to do anything to deserve it. And we will learn the same thing as well. Jesus accepts us first before WE do anything to deserve it.

Here are some ideas for your Crew today in Thunder Island:

- Take the opportunity to affirm your kids by name. "Rachel, I'm so glad to see you at VBS!"
- Find moments to pray a simple prayer with your Crew members. Ask for prayer requests and be respectful and attentive to their requests.
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Day 4

Bible Story: Peter denies Jesus three times.

Power Point: Jesus forgives me. Always! Relax!

Actions: Stand hand up with fingers on the other hand and brush your fingertips along the hand. Stretch arms open wide. Make Shaka sign with pinkie and thumb out.

Key Verse: I give a new rule to you. Love one another. You must love each other as I have loved you. In this way, everyone will know you are my disciples. They know it if you really love each other. John 13:34-35

It's already Day 4! All week your kids have learned important lessons about Jesus' love. The Bible story for today is about Peter discovering that Jesus forgives, even when we hurt Him. The kids will also learn that Jesus forgives us when we do something that hurts Him.

Here are some ideas for your Crew today in Thunder Island:

- Take the opportunity to affirm the kids by name!
- Repeat the Power Point.
- Find moments to pray a simple prayer with your kids. Ask for prayer requests and be respectful and attentive to their requests.
- The Station Leaders are all doing a fantastic job! Let them know that you enjoy the craft, the snack is tasty, the Bible story is exceptional, the game is invigorating, and the prayer station is inspirational.
- Give yourself a good stretch by reaching your arms as high as you can. Say, "Jesus is always with me! Stretch your arms out wide because the victory is won!"
- Participate in the music and encourage your Crew to participate with you.
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Day 5

Bible Story: Mary goes to the tomb, meets Jesus, goes to tell the disciples.

Power Point: Jesus sends me. Always! Relax!

Actions: Point finger up with elbow bent and straighten arm to point outward. Stretch arms open wide. Make Shaka sign with pinkie and thumb out.

Key Verse: I give a new rule to you. Love one another. You must love each other as I have loved you. In this way, everyone will know you are my disciples. They know it if you really love each other. John 13:34-35

All week your kids have learned that no matter what, Jesus is with us. Today's Bible story is about what Mary discovered at Jesus' tomb. She discovered that Jesus had risen, and she ran to share the good news. The kids will learn that Jesus is sending us to share the good news about His love with others.

Here are some ideas for your Crew today in Thunder Island:

- Find moments to pray a simple prayer with your Crew members. Ask for prayer requests and be respectful and attentive to their requests.
- When you pass another Crew on your way to the next station, give high-fives to as many of the other kids as you can. Encourage your Crew to do the same.
- Give the kids a high-five. Say, "Jesus is always with me! Give me a high-five!"
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