

Junior Course Overview

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Title	Stand for God!	Obey God!	Trust God!	Thank God!	Fear God!
Lesson Focus	Just like Noah, we can rely on God to help us stand for Him.	Just like Noah, we can rely on God to help us obey Him, no matter what.	Just like Noah, we can rely on God to help us trust Him with our lives.	Just like Noah, we can rely on God to help us thank Him in everything.	Just like Noah, we can rely on God to help us take Him seriously.
Bible Passages	Genesis 1–3; Genesis 6:5–9	Genesis 6:9–22	Genesis 7	Genesis 8	Genesis 9:1–17
Lifeline Verse	Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13	If you love Me, keep My commandments. John 14:15	But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.” Psalm 31:14	In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18	Blessed is the man who fears the Lord. Psalm 112:1
Animal Pal Fun Phrase	Hydro the Whale reminds us there’s a whale of a problem.	Hammer the Shark reminds us to nail obedience.	Piers the Puffin reminds us to trust the Lord and get on board.	Paws the Sea Otter reminds us we “otter” thank God.	Fin the Dolphin reminds us “no-fin” is a bigger deal than taking God seriously.
Apologetics Focus	Before the Flood: Wow! Were people really that smart back then?	Preparing for the Flood: Hmm. It’s a big boat, but still, how did everything fit?	The Flood: Yikes! Was water really everywhere?	End of the Flood: Whoa! What happened to this planet?	After the Flood: Hey! Why do different cultures have similar Flood stories?
Sunsational Science and Crafts	Experiment: Ocean in a Bottle Main Craft: Lone Lighthouse	Experiment: Sink or Float Main Craft: Awesome Ark	Experiment: Mini Volcanoes Main Craft: Seashell Cross	Experiment: Fossil Finds Main Craft: Ocean of Thanks Box	Experiment: Rainbow Fun Main Craft: Rainbow Wind Catcher
Splash! Splash! Games	Whale of a Problem Octo-Ball	Two-of-a-Kind Relays Match Mates	Water World Animal Antics	Team Raven/Team Dove Fossil Fun	Obsta-Cool Water Course Rainbow Soccer
Seaside Snacks	Pail of Whales	Fan-“sea” Floats	Lifesaver Rings	Cornucopia of Thanks	Promise Pops
Cool Contests	Goldfish Guess	Club Cheers	Animal Dress Up Day	Scripture Look Up: Thankful Verses	Mission Money



Contents

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Junior Teacher Guide

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Handy Helps

Let's Dive In!

Imagine you're standing at the beach with your eyes closed. Can you hear the waves gently washing against the shore? Do you feel the soft sand between your toes? Is there a smell of freshness in the air and a taste of salty sea mist on your lips? Open your eyes and gaze upon one of the most amazing places on Earth—the ocean.

Then get ready to road trip with us as we head out for the newest AnswersVBS—*Ocean Commotion*, where we'll dive into Noah's Flood and learn important life lessons from Noah such as:

- Standing for God (even if it means standing alone);
- Obeying God (no matter what);
- Trusting God (He's a life saver);
- Thanking God (in everything);
- Fearing God (taking Him seriously).

It promises to be a boatload of fun every jam-packed day! We'll plunge right in as we start with the Under-the-Sea Opening Assembly, a high-energy opening with entertaining welcomes, rockin' songs, a mission moment, and prayer.

Then we're off to four fun rotation sites:

- Lifesaver Lesson Time, where we dive deep into God's Word and learn important Bible truths in fun and creative ways;
- Seaside Snacks, where prep is a breeze and taste is tropical;
- Splish! Splash! Games, where we make some waves with both land and sea escapades;
- Sunsational Science and Crafts, where a wide array of science experiments and crafts are waiting to be explored.

After finishing the day's rotations, everyone heads back to the Under-the-Sea Closing Assembly that includes more singing, a Creature Feature, contest results, and the greatly anticipated daily drama, which is a highlight of the kids' day.

The drama begins as Alex, the lead character, falls asleep. Then starts a fantastical dream sequence that places her smack dab in an under-the-sea world. While meeting crazy ocean characters and having even crazier experiences, she learns that there's only one way to safety—through "the door." Just as Noah went through the door in the Ark and found safety, we too find safety in just one way—through Jesus, our "door" to salvation.

With all that's in store, it "shore" is going to be fun! So "water" you waiting for? Let's dive on in!

Our Goal

If you asked the people of your church and community how they felt about the Bible, what would their response be? Would they consider the Word of God relevant to their lives and interesting to learn from? Or would it seem irrelevant and trumped by "science"?

A recent survey¹ by America's Research Group² revealed that an alarming number of young people³ are leaving the church after they graduate because their questions about the Bible have not been answered. Respondents indicated that Sunday school materials were shallow and irrelevant. Of those polled, 86% had begun to question the Bible by their high school years. Of those who said they did not believe all the accounts in the Bible are true, 82% cited doubts about the Bible's authority or its trustworthiness.

We trust that the Lord will use Answers VBS to help reverse this sad trend by equipping today's youth and adults with the answers they seek. We have designed *Ocean Commotion* to provide solid Bible-based teaching delivered in a fun and entertaining way that counters the misinformation about the Bible and science that children encounter daily.

¹ Britt Beemer poll commissioned by Answers in Genesis.

² America's Research Group, Ltd., is a full-service market and behavioral research firm offering expertise in all phases of survey research, from questionnaire design to final report preparation.

³ These were people now in their twenties who regularly attended an evangelical church as they were growing up. The poll was nationwide.

Your Role

Your role as the Dive Instructor is outlined in the following pages and includes planning and preparing the daily lessons, enthusiastically engaging in teaching the lessons, and praying over all aspects of your job.

Read this guide carefully and prayerfully, using our suggestions combined with the ideas the Holy Spirit brings to your mind.

So get ready! Get set! Get excited! God is about to use you and your church to impact lives.

Frequently Asked Questions

The content of *Ocean Commotion* may be new to you. For a list of helpful articles on the topics covered in this VBS program, please visit www.answersvbs.com/ocfaq.

Terms to Know

Throughout the VBS curriculum, various terms will be used. Here's a list of some of the most common terms to know.

- **Divers/Dive Clubs:** The children are nicknamed "divers" and are placed in "dive clubs" (individual classes) named after animals, such as the Dolphin Dive Club (Dolphins, for short) or the Sea Turtle Dive Club (Sea Turtles).
- **Dive Club Leaders:** Group leaders who lead the groups from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required of this position.
- **Lifesaver Lesson Time:** Bible and apologetics teaching time.
- **Dive Instructors:** Teachers at the Lifesaver Lesson Time.
- **Sunsational Science and Crafts:** Rotation site where crafts are made and science experiments are explored.
- **Seaside Snacks:** Indoor or outdoor site where snacks are served.
- **Splish! Splash! Games:** Indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred) for recreation time.
- **Lifeline Verse:** Daily memory verse.
- **Creature Feature:** Daily time during the closing assembly when we marvel together at God's design of various marine animals.
- **Toddlers:** 2–4-year-olds.
- **Pre-Primaries:** 4–6-year-olds, or 4-year-olds through children who have completed Kindergarten.
- **Primaries:** 6–9-year-olds, or children who have completed grades 1–3.
- **Juniors:** 9–12-year-olds, or children who have completed grades 4–6.

For multi-age K–6th groups, we recommend using the material for the Primaries.