

Pre-Primary 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	I trust in You, O Lord. Psalm 31:14	In everything give thanks. 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 was 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?
Exploration Stations	Discovery Center: Aquarium/Fish Bowl or Leaf/Flower Rubbings Touch Table: Perfect World Dramatic Play: Bible Time Construction Zone Coloring Corner: 1 Corinthians 16:13	Discovery Center: Animal Card Fun Touch Table: Floatable Boat-ables Dramatic Play: Bible Time Construction Zone Coloring Corner: John 14:15	Discovery Center: Blue "Ocean" Cream Touch Table: Sink or Float Dramatic Play: Bible Time Construction Zone Coloring Corner: Psalm 31:14	Discovery Center: Wet or Dry Touch Table: Fossil Impressions Dramatic Play: Bible Time Construction Zone Coloring Corner: 1 Thessalonians 5:18	Discovery Center: Rainbow Pom-Pom Painting Touch Table: Dino Dig Dramatic Play: Bible Time Construction Zone Coloring Corner: Psalm 112:1
Sunsational Science and Crafts	Experiment: Ocean in a Bottle Main Craft: Lone Lighthouse	Experiment: Sink or Float Main Craft: Awesome Ark Hat	Experiment: Mini Volcanoes Main Craft: Seashell Cross	Experiment: Fossil Finds Main Craft: Ocean of Thanks Box	Experiment: Rainbow Fun Main Craft: Rainbow Bird Feeder
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



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Pre-Primary Teacher Guide

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 Printed in China.



Petersburg, Kentucky, USA

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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;
- Splash! 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.

And 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.

Top 20 Teaching Tips for Dive Instructors

1. Pray and study God's Word. This is your most important preparation. "We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word" (Acts 6:4). God has entrusted you with the awesome privilege of opening His Word and sharing it daily with the children. Walk worthy!
2. Read through all your lesson plans well in advance. Become familiar with the Pre-Primary section of the Resource DVD-ROM. Begin to pray and plan, and continue to pray during and after VBS.
3. In this guide:
 - » Teaching Tips are marked with a .
 - » Materials for each activity are listed next to the activity.
 - » The "teacher says" portion is bolded.
4. Ask dive club leaders to help man the exploration stations each day. Post the directions and teaching tie-ins at each station each day as an easy reference for your helpers. (See the Resource DVD-ROM.) If possible, gather all the supplies for the exploration stations and lessons before the week begins. It's particularly helpful to organize them by station and by day so they are ready and easily switched each day.
5. A puppet is used each day sometime during the lesson. It may also be used to welcome the children, sing a song, or review the lesson or a memory verse. The puppet can come up from inside the shack through the hole in the life preserver if there are two of you to do the puppet skit. Or, if working alone, the puppet can come up from inside a beach tote bag.
6. When setting up the room, you may want to clear out tables and chairs, depending on the room size and number of children expected.
7. Attend the Teacher Workshop and the Gospel Workshop. Be prepared to share the good news of salvation!
8. Dress as if you are a dive instructor teaching a class at the ocean's edge. Wear khaki shorts or pants, a dive instructor T-shirt, and a hat. (See catalog.) Add in possible equipment such as a mask, snorkel, air tanks (two 2-liter bottles duct taped together, with cording attached to make them wearable), and/or fins. You may want to wear some of this equipment for just a few minutes, and then have them sitting up front on your set the rest of the week. (See the craft guide for a scuba tank example.)
9. Take on a persona to bring lessons to life. Some teachers enjoy making up a fun name, adopting an accent, etc. Others are more comfortable just being themselves in a costume. Teach in a way that makes you feel comfortable.
10. Call the children by name as you interact with them. Nametags help with this.
11. Think safety. Read the Child Safety Precautions file on the Resource DVD-ROM for more information.
12. Children will be at various levels of spiritual comprehension. Pray for the Lord to take the message and do with it as He wills: plant seeds, bring to salvation, or strengthen and grow those who are already believers.
13. Use your Bible throughout the lessons at the appropriate times. Show through your facial expressions and your actions the importance of the Scriptures.
14. Show love. All children, regardless of age or appearance, need to be loved. Greet them warmly each day and always be ready with smiles, encouraging words, and appropriate hugs. (Make sure to be aware of your church's appropriate touching policies.)
15. Be all there. Try to leave behind whatever is currently going on in your life and focus your attention on the children under your care.
16. Notice the good. Children want attention and will sometimes resort to acting up in an effort to receive attention, even if it is negative attention. Be proactive by noticing and praising the things they do right. Be an encourager.
17. Modify the Exploration Stations as your situation warrants. Set them up as suggested or incorporate one or more ideas into the lesson time instead, to do with the whole group at one time.
18. Children generally rise to the level expected of them, so challenge them to work on memory verses and complete their take-home student guides.
19. Use brown lunch bags labeled with the child's name to send everything home each day.
20. Have fun! Teaching should be a joy for you. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Lifesaver Lesson Time

Kids will dive deep into God's Word at Lifesaver Lesson Time. It is written as a 35–40 minute period, divided into two segments: Exploration Stations (15–20 minutes) and Lesson Time (15–20 minutes). You can either keep your group together for the stations and lesson time or divide the group in two, with each half switching places after 15–20 minutes.

If stations aren't possible, simply choose one or more of the station activities to incorporate into your lesson time as an activity for the whole group, rather than having a separate area for them.

Exploration Station Time

There are four stations to choose from: Discovery Center, Touch Table, Dramatic Play, and Coloring Corner. These stations can be in the same room as the lesson time or in an adjoining room. If both the stations and the lesson time are in the same room, set them up at opposite ends of the room if possible.

When the children enter the stations room, you may want to have them first sit while you briefly explain each station and teaching tie-in. Then the children can rotate in small groups through each station every few minutes, or they can independently move from one to another. It's good to photocopy the directions and teaching tie-ins for each station (see Resource DVD-ROM) and leave them at the appropriate stations for dive club leaders to reinforce. The children don't need to do every station each day. Send the coloring page home daily, colored or uncolored.

See the Exploration Stations supply list on the back cover for a list of the supplies needed each day. Post the signs with each station's name (Teacher Resource Kit). For the Touch

Table, use a small wading pool or large, clear, under-the-bed storage container partially filled with water or other materials. Place it on a plastic tarp or tablecloth to catch the spills.

Check the Decorating Decisions section for more specifics on setting up the Dramatic Play area to look like a Bible time construction zone, and the Coloring Corner to look like it's under-the-sea.

Lesson Time

The lesson time is divided into three sections:

- **Introduce It!** (5 minutes or less): This is a time to begin the lesson in an interesting way.
- **Teach It!** (10–15 minutes): This deepens the lesson, with costumed teachers sharing the Bible account.
- **Apply It!** (Remaining time): This is the memory verse review and practical application time.

Ideas are given throughout the lessons to adapt the activities to your time period. There are many possibilities. Choose the activities from the options given that will fit your time frame, shortening or skipping some if needed.

The lesson format is written for a two-person team. One person serves as Teacher One and the other as the second teacher or the teaching assistant. The format also works if teaching alone. If team teaching, decide ahead of time who will teach what. If teaching alone, either find someone to help with the daily puppet script or work the puppet yourself, using a sturdy beach tote, with the puppet's body hidden behind the tote.

Check the Decorating Decisions section for specifics on decorating the classroom for Lifesaver Lesson Time.

Memory Verse Songs

We have partnered with JumpStart3 (contemporary, NKJV, 11-4-069) and Majesty Music (traditional, KJV, 11-4-063) to create songs for each of the memory verses. They feature the full verses. (Pre-Primaries and Toddlers are taught condensed versions of these verses.) Singing Scripture is an excellent way for children to easily learn their Bible verses. If you choose to use these songs, we suggest using them (either video or audio) during the memory verse time

in each lesson. The Leader Pack comes with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit and can also be purchased separately. You can also purchase and download the songs individually from our online store for use on a handheld device (answers-bookstore.com). Student CDs in packs of 10 are available if you would like each student to have a copy of the songs (11-4-070 or 11-4-064). The option you choose will determine which type of media device you use to play it.

Special Needs

The *Special Needs Teacher Supplement* (11-4-053) can help you accommodate and modify these lessons for those who need it, either in your regular classroom or in a self-contained classroom. Please also see answersvbs.com/ocfaq for articles that provide biblical perspectives on the world of special needs.

Sample Schedule

Below is a sample schedule of a typical day at VBS. Check with your director for a copy of the schedule and room assignment for your VBS.

Time	Group One	Group Two	Group Three
9:00–9:15	Under-the-Sea Opening Assembly: Large Meeting Area (Everyone together)		
9:20–10:00	Lifesaver Lesson Time	Sunsational Science and Crafts	Splish! Splash! Games and Seaside Snacks
10:05–10:45	Splish! Splash! Games and Seaside Snacks	Lifesaver Lesson Time	Sunsational Science and Crafts
10:50–11:30	Sunsational Science and Crafts	Splish! Splash! Games and Seaside Snacks	Lifesaver Lesson Time
11:35–Noon	Under-the-Sea Closing Assembly: Large Meeting Area (Everyone together)		

Student Extras

Check with your VBS director and choose one or more of these fun optional materials to give to your students so they can take home a review of the daily lesson content.

Also, decide with your director when it will work best to give out the various items: during lesson time, during snack time (a good time to review!), or at the end of the day (a good time to pass out bookmarks and other items that need to make it home safely).

Student Guides: These age-appropriate guides feature a lesson review on the front of each daily take-home paper, and the memory verse, verse review game suggestion, and “Go and Do” section on the back that parallels the Apply It! part of the lesson. You can either go over these during class time or send them home with the students to be completed with a parent or caretaker, depending on your time constraints. If you send the guides home, motivate the kids to do them because they are full of good stuff! Give them to the dive club leaders to pass out at the end of the day. Then have the leaders check with the kids the following day to see how they did and consider asking your VBS director to give contest bonus points to the individuals and groups for their hard work. The student guides are available in packs of 10.

- Pre-Primary NKJV (11-4-073)
- Pre-Primary KJV (11-4-134)

Dive Logs: These fun interactive booklets feature the daily memory verse, fun phrase, stickers, and a place to stamp (11-4-093) for attendance. Check with your VBS director to find out when he would like to first give these to the kids. They can receive them at any time during the first day and you can review them with the kids during the Apply It! section of the lesson if time, or dive club leaders can go over them during snack time. These are available in packs of 10.

- Pre-Primary/Toddler NKJV (11-4-090)
- Pre-Primary/Toddler KJV (11-4-138)

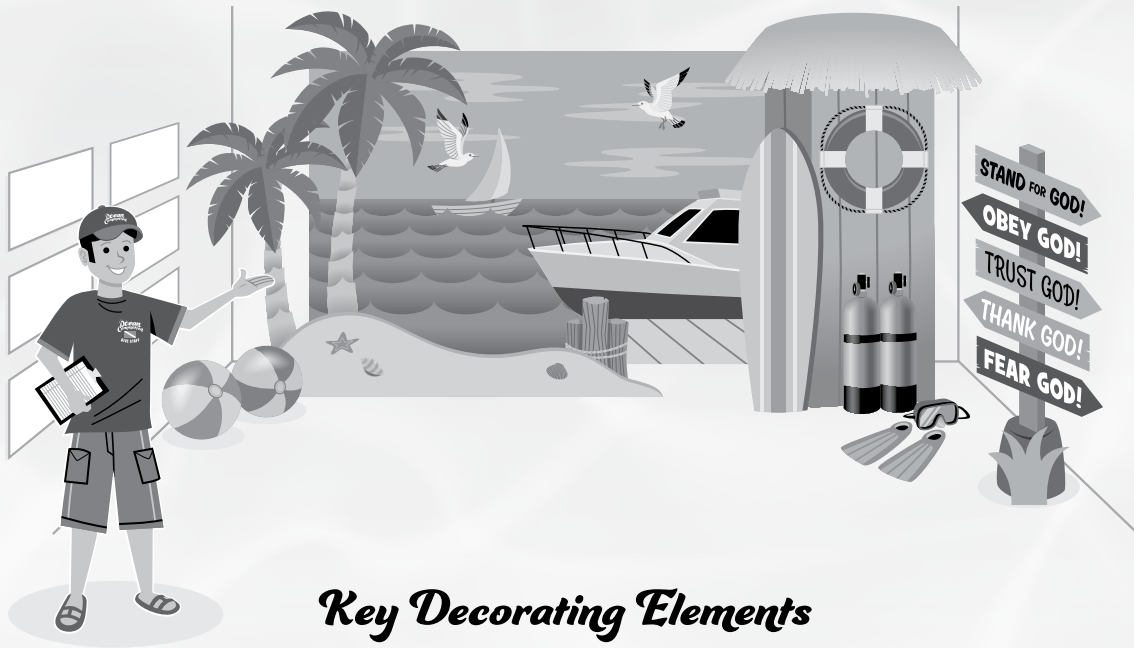
Bookmarks: These are available in packs of 10 and can be passed out at the end of each class or each day.

- Ark on Water (11-4-077)—Day 1
- Gospel (11-4-076)—Day 3
- Animal Pals series—one for each day (NKJV 11-4-078; KJV 11-4-140)—Days 1–5

Decorating Decisions

The ocean...so vast, so beautiful, so mysterious. It really is an amazing thing with its fascinating creatures, powerful waves, and sandy beaches. So use your creativity, along with the ideas in this section, to capture the imagination of the

kids with your classroom decorations. Remember that a fun and exciting environment helps children learn better, remember more, and leave with happy memories.

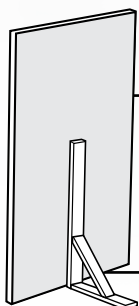


Key Decorating Elements

To serve as a focal point for the teaching, your *Ocean Commotion* classroom backdrop features an ocean scene with a beach, a surf shack, and a seascape showing a dive boat moored to a dock. On the wall adjacent to the backdrop, the teaching, fun phrase, and memory verse posters are displayed.

Beach

Use corrugated cardboard and two shades (darker and lighter) of tan paint to make a small sandy mound panel. Cut the cardboard into the desired size and shape and then paint it a golden yellow. Then sponge on a bright shade of orange, lightly and somewhat sparingly, to add a textured, 3-dimensional look. Add sea stars, shells, a sand dollar, and maybe a crab to finish it. Finally, screw the panel to one or two small jacks to prop it up.



Prop up your free-standing decorations with wooden jacks made from 2x4, 2x3, 2x2, or 1x2 boards. Smaller decorations will need smaller jacks and larger decorations will need larger ones.

Surf Shack

Use corrugated cardboard sheets or large appliance boxes to create a small three-sided surf shack. The sides of the shack should be angled so the roof will slope. To create a wood plank look, use a standard size roller and a medium brown paint with a straight, vertical stroke. To separate the "planks," use ¼-in. painter's tape or simply leave a narrow gap as you paint each band of brown. To add some texture or a weathered look use another shade of paint (darker brown or light gray) and apply with a "dry" brush. The dry brush technique requires very little paint on the brush with any excess paint brushed off on a scrap or test surface before applying it to the cardboard. Then, what little paint there is on the brush should be applied sparingly and intermittently, using a vertical stroke for the desired effect. Finally, add a piece of cardboard across the top for a roof and then "thatch" it with some raffia table skirting.

Seascape

Find the black line image of the seascape on the Resource DVD-ROM, then use an overhead projector and a pencil to transfer it onto corrugated cardboard sheets. Paint the sky a