

Toddler

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 | Stand fast, be brave. 1 Corinthians 16:13 | Keep My commandments. John 14:15 | I trust in You. Psalm 31:14 | 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 | Lone Lighthouse Wonderful Whale | Awesome Ark Hat Tool Box | Seashell Cross Memory Game | Ocean of Thanks Box Thankful Placemat | Rainbow Bird Feeder Optional: Souvenir Photo Frame |
| Splash! Splash! Games | Stand Up, Stand Up Whale Spray | Swim from the Shark Simon Says | All Aboard! Catch It! | Musical Dry Land Build the Altar | Rainbow Color Run Rainbow Color Walk |
| Seaside Snacks | Pail of Whales Sandy Muffins | Bite-a-Boats Shark Teeth | Lifesaver Rings Animals 2 by 2 | Cornucopia of Thanks Fossil Cookies | Rainbow Fruit Cups Rainbow Sea Stars |
| Cool Contests | Goldfish Guess | Club Cheers | Animal Dress Up Day | Scripture Look Up: Thankful Verses | Mission Money |



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Toddler 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.

Toddlers and young preschoolers then head back to their rooms to experience their own special schedule, which includes Exploration Stations, Lesson Time, Song Time, and Memory Verse/Review Time. They also enjoy snacks, games, and crafts.

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 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. Note that toddlers don't rotate around as the older kids do, but stay with their same leaders the whole day.

- **Divers/Dive Clubs:** The children are nicknamed "divers" and are placed in "dive clubs" (individual classes) named after animals, such as the Dolphins or the 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.