

Discovery Pass Science and Crafts

COURSE OVERVIEW

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Title	B	I	B	L	E
Treasure Point Lesson Focus	Book of Books The Bible is the coolest book on the planet, unique in so many ways.	Incredible Impact The Bible's message has had an incredible impact on the earth.	Bedrock Base The Bible is the bedrock foundation to build our lives on.	Letter of Love The Bible has a thrilling theme running throughout its pages.	Exciting to Explore The Bible is exciting to explore! Let's learn it, love it, and live it.
Bible Passages	The Bible Is One-of-a-Kind (Selected Verses)	Saul's Life Is Transformed (Acts 9:1–22)	The Wise Man Builds His House on the Rock (Matthew 7:24–29)	The Gospel Is a Message with Love (Selected Verses)	Mary Loves to Soak in God's Words (Luke 10:38–42)
Bible Gem	All Scripture is given by inspiration of God . . . 2 Timothy 3:16	Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105	Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24	But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8	I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure. Psalm 119:162
Animal Pal	Blizzard the Polar Bear	Snowball the Arctic Hare	Spike the Narwhal	Shaggy the Musk Ox	Dash the Siberian Husky
Apologetics Focus	Did you know the Bible isn't like any other "religious" book?	Did you know the Bible's teachings have positively influenced cultures around the world?	Did you know science, history, and fulfilled prophecies confirm the Bible?	Did you know the earth didn't start out with polar ice caps?	Did you know we need the Holy Spirit to help us understand the Bible?
Discovery Pass Science and Crafts	Experiment: It's Snow Unique! Main Craft: Icebreaker Fishing	Experiment: Slip and Grip Main Craft: Northern Lightscape	Experiment: Solid Ground Main Craft: Lil' Log Cabin	Experiment: H2Ohhh!!! Main Craft: "White as Snow" Globe	Experiment: Arctic Exploration Main Craft: Amazing ACE Dogsled Race
Glacier Gap Games	Welcome to the Arctic Silly Snowmen	Snowball Fight Mad/Glad Game	Battle for the Base Make It or Break It	Circle Up Finding Your Way	Iditarod Race Broom Hockey
Klondike Corner Snacks	Scripture Scrolls Snowflake Cookies (Psalm 119:18)	Snow Ball Butterflies Tundra Transformers (Psalm 19:7)	Happy Hearts Ocean Jammers (Psalm 19:8)	Gold Nuggets Snow S'Mores (Psalm 19:10)	Treasure Treats Husky Puppy Chow (Psalm 19:11)
Cool Contests	Frosted Food Fun	Chilly Cheers	Polar Dress-Up Day	Bible Books Challenge	Mission Money Mania



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Discovery Pass Science and Crafts

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HANDY HELPS

LET'S WARM UP!

Beyond thrilling! Exciting to explore! Breathtakingly beautiful! Full of treasure! Words that describe the Arctic for sure, a fascinating region like no other in the world. But go back and read those words again—they can also be used to describe the coolest book on the planet—the Bible. It's mind-blowing to think that the God who made the universe wrote us a book—a book that is *beyond thrilling, exciting to explore, beautiful, and full of treasure*. Now if that isn't worthy of our attention, what is? We here at Answers VBS can hardly contain our excitement as we launch the newest VBS—*Operation Arctic*. Get ready for the thrill of exploring this one-of-a-kind treasure as we build on the following BIBLE acronym each day:

B Book of Books—The first day, we'll discover there's just no book like it, unique in so many ways!

I Incredible Impact—The second day, we'll explore the impact the Bible's teachings have had upon our world!

B Bedrock Base—The third day, we'll see there's no shifting sand here—we've got the Rock of God's Word to base our lives on!

L Letter of Love—The fourth day, we'll encounter the best love letter ever, written to us by God Himself!

E Exciting to Explore—The fifth day, we'll be challenged to learn it, love it, and live it!

Our explorers will begin warming up to the Word from the very first minute they arrive at *Operation Arctic*. The mission begins at **Snowfall Station** with the 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:

- **Treasure Point**, the Bible lesson location. Here, explorers discover what a gem God's Word is as they learn important Bible truths in fun and creative ways.
- **Klondike Corner**, the snack spot. Explorers won't want to pass up the cool treats that are waiting to melt in their mouths.
- **Glacier Gap**, the recreation location. At this spot, explorers discover that preparation is "snow" easy and games are filled with chills and thrills.
- **Discovery Pass**, the science, craft, music, mission, and memory verse spot. This location features a wide array

of activities to choose from: science experiments, crafts, songs to sing, memory verse games to play, and a mission time (for those who want to spend more time than is given during the Assembly).

After finishing the day's rotations, everyone heads back to **Snowfall Station** for the 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 in the city with a high-powered executive who is fed up with the rat race. He decides to move to the wilderness for a quieter, simpler existence. Little does he realize all that's in store—missing treasure, goofy bad guys, unexpected visitors, and plenty of action!

Sound fun? Then let's plunge on in to this cold *world* and God's wonderful *Word*! It promises to be a flurry of fun and excitement at *Operation Arctic*! Let's go!

OUR GOAL

It's been ten years since Answers in Genesis entered the world of VBS, and we are so thankful for how God has chosen to use these programs! But why did we decide to embark on such an undertaking in the first place, and why are we still at it, by God's grace, ten years later?

Our primary goal has remained the same all these years—to bring God glory by boldly and unashamedly proclaiming Him to a strategic group—young people! From both a biblical and statistical point of view, young people are a big deal! They're not only awesome—we love 'em!—but they're also dearly cherished by our Lord and tend to be soft-hearted toward spiritual things. Researchers generally agree most people become Christians when they're children, so it's apparent this age group is a huge mission field!

Children are loved by their Creator. Jesus said not to hinder the children but to let them come to Him (Luke 18:16). We want children to come to Christ and not be hindered in any way from doing so. To that end, our philosophy has always been to combine a biblically rich VBS loaded with substance with off-the-chart, irresistible fun. In a day and age when content sometimes suffers, it's critically important to us not to sacrifice rich content at the expense of fun. But it's also crucial that the most exciting Book in the world doesn't come across as irrelevant or dry. We want to reflect our creative, inspiring, joy-giving God who made laughter and fun!

So why do we do it? We want kids around the world to hear about and personally meet our awesome God and to

understand how they can receive eternal life through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. We believe VBS is a great way to introduce them to God, as it is one of the biggest outreaches of the year for most churches.

We pray you will find that every prayer prayed, every minute invested, every dollar spent, and every word spoken will bring God glory as you reach kids for Christ. Just remember—VBS is worth it! May God richly bless your VBS.

YOUR ROLE

Your role as the Craft Coordinator is outlined in the following pages. Your responsibilities may include:

- Planning crafts for all age levels
- Overseeing others who help with crafts
- Organizing sign-up for donations of craft materials
- Buying all extra supplies that have not been donated
- Enlisting help and preparing necessary craft supplies ahead of time
- Acting as the presenter of the crafts during VBS or overseeing others who present the crafts

- Overseeing the set up and clean up of the craft area(s) each day
- Making sure key lesson themes are reinforced through the crafts
- Praying over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS

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

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The content of *Operation Arctic* may be new to you. For a list of helpful articles on the topics covered in this VBS program, please visit AnswersVBS.com/oafaq.

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.

- **Explorers:** Children at VBS. Explorers will be put in teams named after animals they may see on an Arctic exploration (e.g., polar bears, beluga whales, snowy owls, harp seals, caribou).
- **Guides:** Team leaders who lead the teams from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required of this position.
- **Exploration Leaders:** Teachers at the Treasure Point Lesson Time.
- **Treasure Point:** Rotation site where Bible and apologetics teaching occurs.
- **Snowfall Station:** Spot where everyone joins together for the opening and closing assemblies.
- **Discovery Pass:** Rotation site where crafts are made, science experiments are performed, music is sung, memory verses are learned, and missions around the world are explored.
- **Klondike Corner:** Indoor or outdoor site where snacks are served.
- **Glacier Gap:** Indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred) for game time.
- **Bible Gem:** Daily memory verse.
- **Animal Pals:** Friendly animal mascots used to emphasize the key point of each day's lesson.
- **Creature Feature:** Daily time during the closing assembly when we marvel together at God's design of various Arctic 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 teams, we recommend using the material for the Primaries.

TOP 20 TIPS FOR DISCOVERY PASS SCIENCE AND CRAFTS

1. Pray! Study God's Word and the VBS lessons! This is your most important preparation. Give all concerns to the Lord, and watch *Him* do great things!
2. This guide offers main craft and science experiment suggestions, as well as ideas for extra crafts and craft kit options. Some are more involved, and some are simple and quick. Think through your time and resources and decide which crafts and/or science experiments you will do each day. There are also suggestions for a memory verse time, a music time, and a mission time. Feel free to fill this time by choosing from any of these options.
3. Gather faithful helpers who will prepare items well before VBS. Record their names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses so you can contact them quickly and easily.
4. Make a sample of every craft before you meet with your craft team for the first time so they can visualize what you are presenting. Each team member should make a sample of every craft so they are familiar with all the steps. Try out each science experiment ahead of time also.
5. Host "Craft Shops." Workers can drop by and pick up something to work on at home, or they can stay for part or all of the time. Assembly lines can be set up to prep crafts quickly. Weekday or Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon, complete with doughnuts and coffee, can be an enjoyable time.
6. Use an office paper cutter for pre-prep cutting of patterns or paper that ends up being either square or rectangular-shaped. It goes much faster than cutting with scissors. Make sure to remove the paper cutter from the craft rooms before the kids arrive, however! The same goes for any supplies that could be dangerous to kids, like miter saws, knives, etc. They all need to be put away in a safe place.
7. Be prepared. Organize crafts into individual kits for each child, using baggies or lunch sacks. Place the individual kits into boxes labeled for each rotation. Organize science experiment supplies as well.
8. Write out a few theme-related jokes or riddles for each day. Display them at each craft table. They act as an easy icebreaker and add to the fun!
9. Cover the craft/science room floors with old sheets or tarps and the table tops with plastic tablecloths.
10. Craft glue (also called tacky glue) works better than school glue. Toothpicks work well for dipping.
11. Permanent markers in vibrant colors can be a good alternative to paint. They work on most surfaces—paper, wood, fabric, and plastic.
12. Decorate the room to correspond with the fun theme. See the *Director Guide* Decorating Decisions section for possible ideas. Play VBS music to set the mood. Display the memory verses on each table or around the room in various locations.
13. Place a sample of each craft on every craft table during VBS so children can visualize what they will be making.
14. Overhead projectors can be used to display craft and/or science experiment directions.
15. Use this time to engage in conversation and share God's love. Be ready to offer smiles, hugs, and laughs. (Be aware of your church's appropriate touching policies.) Also, be ready to help children who are easily frustrated. Helping with steps requiring physical dexterity does not take away from the fact that the child did the craft or experiment.
16. To reinforce the day's lesson, ask the children a few questions about what they are learning. Also, make sure to share the teaching tie-in at the beginning of each craft or science experiment time.
17. Print the daily memory verses on address labels and place on crafts, if possible.
18. Give leftover craft supplies to sick children, shut-ins, staff members, another VBS, or your church's craft depository.
19. Always, always, always put names on crafts! Strips of masking tape work well for name labels.
20. This book is loaded with fabulous stuff, more than you'll probably be able to do, so consider incorporating unused ideas at other times during your ministry year.

TOP OF THE WORLD TUNES

ALL AGES

This section is for those who may want to add a music rotation to their schedule. A Music Leader Set (either contemporary or traditional) is included with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit or is available to purchase separately. Check with your Director for the set.

To help the children learn the VBS songs, spend some time singing them during this rotation. The theme song is fun to sing every day, along with several other songs. Choose the songs your kids will enjoy and repeat them throughout the week or use the suggestions given below. You may also want to include the day's memory verse song (see Bible Gem Review section). The Memory Verse Leader Set includes hand motion videos, song lyric videos, and audio files for you to choose from.

Materials

- Music Leader Set (available with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit or at answersbookstore.com [contemporary: 11-5-059; traditional: 11-5-060])
- Top of the World Tunes Station Poster (11-5-034)

Day 1

"Operation Arctic"

Contemporary: "Look in the Book"

C: "Standing on the Promises"

Traditional: "The Wise Man Built"

T: "The Bible Stands"

Day 2

C: "Look in the Book"

C: "The Word"

C: "Learn It, Love It, Live It"

T: "The Bible Is My GPS"

T: "Heir of Heaven"

T: "Choose Right"

Day 3

C: "The Word"

C: "Solid Ground"

C: "Standing on the Promises"

T: "The Bible Stands"

T: "Stay the Course"

T: "Standing on the Promises"

Day 4

C: "Solid Ground"

C: "Love Letter"

C: "Look in the Book"

T: "Heir of Heaven"

T: "The Wise Man Built"

T: "Stay the Course"

Day 5

C: "Love Letter"

C: "Learn It, Love It, Live It"

C: "Solid Ground"

T: "The Bible Is My GPS"

T: "Choose Right"

T: "Standing on the Promises"

BIBLE GEM REVIEW

ALL AGES

This section is for those who may want to add a memory verse rotation to their schedule. A Memory Verse Leader Set (either contemporary or traditional) is included with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit or is available to purchase separately. Check with your Director for the set. Display the memory verse posters in your area.

To review the memory verse, play the appropriate song from the Memory Verse Leader Set (either video or audio) several times and encourage children to sing along. Then play a game to review the verse.

You may want to combine this with a Top of the World Tunes time.

Materials

- Memory Verse Songs Leader Set (available with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit or at answersbookstore.com [contemporary: 11-5-069; traditional: 11-5-063])
- Bible Gem Station Poster (11-5-035)
- Memory Verse Posters

Day 1

To review today's verse, use your arm as a volume indicator. Hold your arm out to your side and lower it for "soft," raise it high for "loud" with variations on the loudness throughout. Children say the verse based on the volume you indicate with your arm. Change the volume before the kids say the verse or as they're saying it. Choose one or two children to also control the volume while the others say the verse.

Theme Verse: "Open my eyes that I may see wondrous things in Your law." Psalm 119:18

All ages: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" 2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God" 2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV)

Day 2

To review today's verse, write action words that have to do with the Arctic (hiking, ice fishing, digging, ice skating, skiing, snowmobiling, throwing a snowball, building a snowman, etc.) on individual pieces of paper and place in a paper bag.

Kids can take turns drawing out a piece of paper. Everyone who has done that activity stands and says the verse.

Juniors and Primaries: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105 (KJV)

Pre-Primaries and Toddlers: "Your word is a . . . light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

"Thy word is a . . . light unto my path." Psalm 119:105 (KJV)

Day 3

To review today's verse, children toss a white ball (a "snowball") to each other as they say the verse.

Juniors and Primaries: "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24 (NKJV)

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock." Matthew 7:24 (KJV)

Pre-Primaries: ". . . A wise man . . . built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24 (NKJV)

". . . A wise man . . . built his house upon a rock." Matthew 7:24 (KJV)

Day 4: Juniors and Primaries

Before class, divide the verse below into 7 phrases and write each phrase on a different color paper—green, black (with white lettering), blue, gray, red, white, and yellow. Make as many verse sets as you'll need for your teams (consider having 3–4 kids on a team). Divide into teams, with each team getting a set of the color cards that have the verse on them. Each team has to get their phrases into the correct order. This can be done as a relay race or with them getting their color cards out of a manila envelope and working to get them in order. The first team to have them together and say the verse correctly wins.

You can also use these cards to review the gospel presentation given today during the Bible lesson time. Green stands for the beautiful world God originally made in six days, unmarred by sin. Black (dark) stands for the entrance of sin

in the world when Adam disobeyed God's command and ate the forbidden fruit. The penalty for sin is death. Blue stands for the time of Noah when God judged the sin of mankind with a global flood, saving only Noah and his family on the Ark. Gray stands for the time at Babel when God dispersed Noah's descendants over the earth by confusing their languages. Each one of us is a descendant of Adam and is in need of salvation from sin. Red stands for the blood that Jesus shed on the Cross as He paid the penalty for our sin and then rose from the dead. White stands for the cleansing we receive when we repent of our sin and believe that Jesus died in our place and rose from the dead. Yellow stands for heaven and the gift of eternal life we receive when we become a child of God.

Juniors and Primaries: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (KJV)

Day 4: Pre-Primaries and Toddlers

Ahead of time, divide the verse below into 5 words and write each one on a different color paper—green, black (with white lettering), red, white, and yellow. You may want to add a simple picture with each, such as a face for Christ, a cross for died, the number 4 for for, and a few stick people for us, plus the reference on the fifth card. (See the Day 4 Gospel presentation in the Pre-Primary or Toddler teacher guide to see what each color represents. You can use this to review the gospel message.) For the game itself, divide into teams, with each team getting a set of the color cards that have the verse on them. Each team has to get their words into the correct order. This can be done as a relay race or just with

them getting their color cards out of a manila envelope and working to get them in order. The first team to have them together and say the verse correctly wins.

Pre-Primaries and Toddlers: ". . . Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (NKJV)

". . . Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (KJV)

Day 5: Juniors and Primaries

Write the verse on cards and place in a treasure box. Make two sets. Line up the kids into two lines. Place the boxes on the opposite side of the room. On "GO!" the first member on each team runs down, opens the box, and reads the verse. Then the player runs back and high fives the next person on the team, who does the same thing. Continue until all players have gone.

Juniors and Primaries: "I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure." Psalm 119:162 (NKJV)

"I rejoice at thy word, as one who findeth great spoil." Psalm 119:162 (KJV)

Day 5: Pre-Primaries and Toddlers

Place a Bible in a treasure box. Line up the kids into two lines. Place the box on the other side of the room. On "GO!" the first member on each team runs down and says the verse while touching the treasure box. The players on the team can yell helps if necessary. Then the player runs back and high fives the next person on the team, who does the same thing. Continue until all players have gone.

Pre-Primaries and Toddlers: ". . . Your word . . . great treasure." Psalm 119:162 (NKJV)

". . . Thy word . . . great spoil." Psalm 119:162 (KJV)

MISSION MOMENT

ALL AGES

The VBS mission emphasis provides a unique and practical opportunity for children to learn about and participate in the work of gospel-centered ministries that serve the poor.

This year, we've partnered with Children's Hunger Fund to provide food and the hope of the gospel to hungry children through Mission: Hope Excursion.

We have also partnered with the Wild Brothers to produce daily videos that show practical applications of the teaching points on the mission field. This section is not a fundraiser for

the Wild family but is an opportunity for your kids to connect with other children who are missionaries overseas.

Each day's segment will take 15–20 minutes.

Note that the Children's Hunger Fund scripts are also provided in the Assembly Guide for those who would like to offer a mission time then. Coordinate with your director and assembly leader on who is doing what concerning the mission time.

MISSION: HOPE EXCURSION

This week, we're exploring the wonderful depths of the Bible, God's living Word! Scripture is full of life-giving truth, and it's how we learn to live like Jesus. In many ways, it's our map to God's plan for our lives and a manual for us to learn how to serve and obey Him the way He deserves.

We'll take a moment each day to hear from children in different parts of the world and how God is working through the local church to deliver hope to them. During the Mission Moment, your class will receive a new Hope Excursion Report, where we'll meet a little girl or boy and learn about their life in a different part of the world.

Living in Peru, Zambia, Nepal, Ukraine, and the Middle East, each of these children has a unique story of poverty and struggle. They, and kids just like them all over the world, are faced with questions of where their next meal will come from nearly every day. Not only that, they don't know the truth of the gospel and the salvation offered through Jesus Christ.

There's something you and your kids can do to help!

The Bible tells us that we should give to the poor because when we do, it is an act of love and obedience to God (Proverbs 14:31). Together, we are going to do just that by delivering hope to children all over the world!

Setting Off!

During mission time, you and your kids will set off on Hope Excursions to support local churches delivering hope and food to children in need all over the world. Your mission is to collect coins for meals that will be delivered in Children's Hunger Fund Food Paks.

A Food Pak is a 20-pound box of nutritious food that is hand-delivered to the home of a needy family by a trained volunteer from a local church in their community.

Rally your kids to raise funds for the meals that go in every Food Pak. Each meal costs only 25 cents! So, every dollar

that's raised provides four meals for hungry kids—and each meal represents an opportunity to proclaim the gospel!

EVANGELISM OPPORTUNITY: Answers in Genesis, Slavic Gospel Association, and Children's Hunger Fund have joined forces to create gospel tracts—available in English, Thai, Russian, Spanish, and French—which are included with each Food Pak! Samples of these colorful, kid-friendly tracts are in your Starter Kit. Purchasing the English versions of these tracts in bulk helps to fund the distribution of these tracts. See the VBS Resource Catalog for ordering information.

The following items are available on the Resource DVD-ROM or for download from AnswersVBS.com/CHF2017.

- Printable Child Profiles—Five days of true stories about hungry kids in other countries. These exciting and educational prayer briefings will help your kids connect with the real needs of suffering children.
- Printable "Map of the World" activity sheet, featuring our excursion routes and locations of the children from our Hope Excursion Reports.
- Printable Mission: Hope Excursion banner artwork.
- Printable Mission: Hope Excursion artwork to help your kids track their fundraising progress.
- Printable Mission: Hope Excursion fold-up coin bank for collecting coins.

The following items are available on the Children's Hunger Fund DVD-ROM that comes with your kit or to download from AnswersVBS.com/CHF2017.

- Daily Mission: Hope Excursion videos

Day 1 Experiment

IT'S S'NOW UNIQUE!

EXPLORING THE SCIENCE OF SNOW AND THE UNIQUENESS OF SNOWFLAKES

Materials

- Dried apple slices (hidden in a lunch bag), 1 per child
- Snow Crystal Photos (see DVD-ROM), 2 sets per table
- Non-breakable magnifying glasses, 1 for every 2 children
- Non-breakable mirrors (simple rectangular), 1 for every 2 children

Pre-Prep

1. Photocopy the Snow Crystal Photos, and place two sets of the pictures to share on each table.

Class Time Directions

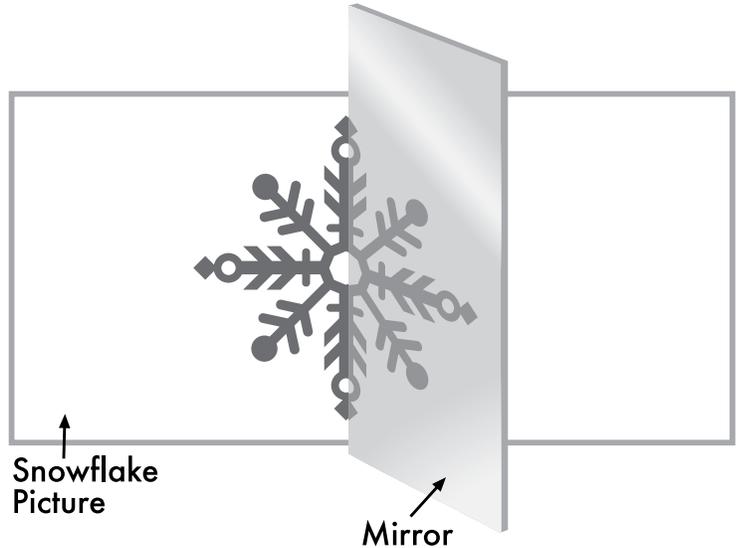
Observation is the basis of all science. God has created your body with senses that help you observe and experience your environment. Tell your neighbor how many senses you have and what they are. Do so, then have a few share their answers with the whole group.

I have something here that we're going to experience with our senses. You're going to try to guess what it is, but you need to do this without talking so you don't give away the answer. First, you're going to touch it, then smell it, then try to hear it, then taste it. You need to do all of that with your eyes closed! When you're done, you can open your eyes and see if you guessed right! Okay, everyone close your eyes and keep them closed. I will pass them out. Pass out a piece of dried apple to each child and have them experience it with their five senses.

NOTE: You can substitute something else instead of the dried apple slice if you know your kids don't have any allergies.

God gave us our senses so we can study and enjoy His creation. Raise your hand if you've ever seen a snowflake. Take show of hands. **Listened to a snowflake.** Take show of hands. **Smelled a snowflake.** Take show of hands. **Touched a snowflake.** Take show of hands. **Tasted a snowflake.** Take show of hands.

Now, raise your hand if you think snowflakes and snow crystals are different names for the same thing. Do so. For those who didn't raise your hands, you're right! Snow crystals are different from snowflakes.



A snow crystal is a single crystal of ice. In it, all the molecules of water connect together in a specific and unique shape.

A snowflake, on the other hand, is a general word that can mean an individual snow crystal, but it can also mean anything that falls from clouds in winter. Often hundreds or even thousands of snow crystals collide and stick together in mid-air as they fall. They form the puffy, white flakes we call snowflakes.

In 1885, this guy named Wilson Bentley did something cool. He attached a camera to a microscope and took the first pictures ever of a snow crystal. During his lifetime, he captured over 5,000 images of snow crystals and snowflakes. I like his name for them—"tiny miracles of beauty" and "ice flowers."

Today, we'll work on improving our observation skills as we look at snow crystals and try to figure out how they're alike and how they're different. The pictures you'll observe aren't drawings. They're real photos of actual snow crystals that show God's creativity.

Let's get into groups of two or three and we'll begin. Do so.

1. With your partner, look at your first snow crystal picture. Tell each other what you see. Be as detailed as possible. Don't use the magnifying lenses or mirrors yet. You're observing with what scientists call "the naked eye." Do so.

2. **Raise your hand if you see a six-sided shape in the center.** Do so. **Do you know what we call a six-sided shape?** Take responses—hexagon. **This is the typical shape of a snow crystal.**
3. **Raise your hand if you see arms or points sticking out from the hexagon.** Do so. **These arms grow from the corners as the crystal grows larger. As the crystals fall through the clouds, they experience different temperatures and amounts of humidity. Every change in temperature and humidity makes the arms of the crystals grow differently.**
4. **Now use the magnifying glass or hand lens and look more closely at your snow crystal. What additional things do you observe? Discuss with your partner.** Do so.
5. **Finally, let's test to see if your snow crystal has symmetry. Symmetry is when you can split something into two matching or almost matching halves. For instance, if you drew an imaginary line down your body, it would, for the most part, look about the same on both sides, so it would be symmetrical. You can test for symmetry by placing a mirror along half of the snow crystal, like this.** Demonstrate. **If it looks the same in the mirror as it does in the full picture, the snow crystal has symmetry. Take time now to use your mirror to test for symmetry.** Do so.

Did any of you find your snow crystal has symmetry? Take responses. **Snow crystals may look like they have symmetry, but when you take a closer look, you'll find they**

aren't perfectly balanced. They're close, but not usually perfectly symmetrical.

Every snow crystal takes a slightly different pathway as it falls through the clouds. That's why no two snow crystals look exactly alike. They are all unique! And even more amazing than that is to realize God's Word, the Bible, is unique, too. It's not like any other book in the whole world. It's a one-of-a-kind treasure, written by God for us. And each one of us is unique, too! God made each of us fearfully and wonderfully with great care and purpose in His own image. He created us to bring Him glory, just like we can glorify God for the beauty of these snow crystals.

As time allows, instruct each pair to observe other snow crystal photos at their table. Have them look to see how the crystals are alike, different, and one-of-a-kind. Encourage the kids to observe with the "naked eye," the magnifying glasses/hand lenses, and the mirrors.

Tip Corner

- As time allows, kids can make a craft snowflake as a visual reminder. Various ideas are listed in the "More Crafts" section at the back of the book, such as the Snowflake Station and the Snowflake Coaster. You may want to make it with six sides to emphasize the typical shape of a snow crystal.
- There are also some amazing pictures of snow crystals online you may want to print off and use.
- Remind them to share at home what they saw today!

Day 1 Craft

ICEBREAKER FISHING (V. 1)

JUNIORS & PRIMARIES

Materials

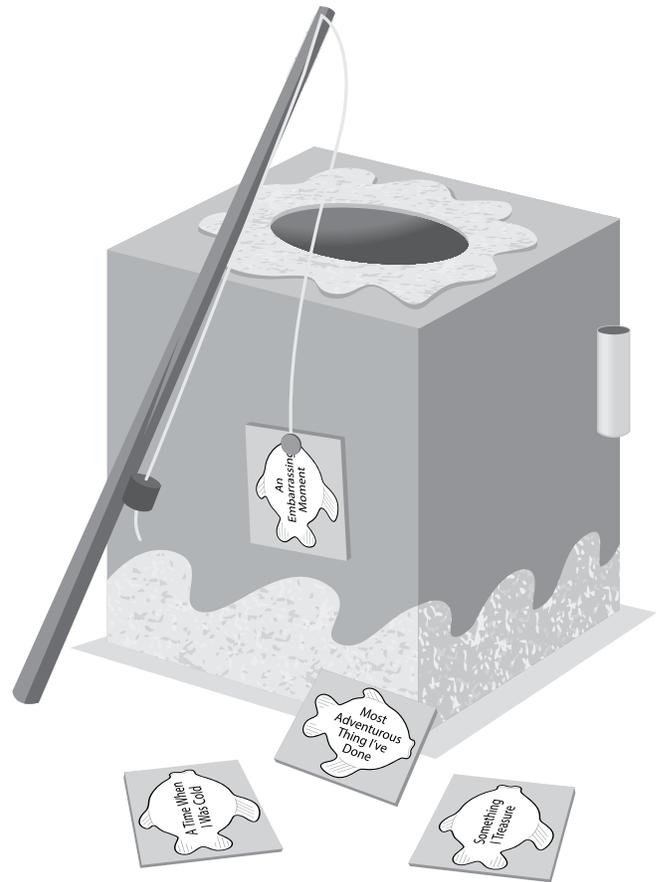
- 4 x 4 x 4-in. white gift boxes, 1 per child
- Wooden chopsticks, 1 stick per child
- Light blue craft paint, amount varies
- Epsom salt, amount varies
- Fish Cards V. 1 (DVD-ROM)
- Salmon-colored cardstock, 1 sheet per child
- Paper clips, 18 per child
- String or fish line, 18 in. per child
- Tiny ring magnets, 1 per child
- Pony beads, 1 per child
- Small glue dots, 3 per child
- Drinking straws, 1 for every 4 children

Tools and Basic Supplies

- Office paper cutter
- Scissors
- Transparent tape
- Cotton balls
- Black permanent marker
- Ruler
- Glue sticks

Pre-Prep

1. Cut a 3-in. diameter hole in the center of each gift box lid.
2. Cut each drinking straw into 4 equal segments.
3. Cut string or fish line into 18-in. pieces. Then tie one end of each piece to a pony bead and the other end to a ring magnet, maintaining at least 14 inches between the bead and magnet.
4. Mark a black dot 2 in. from the thicker end of each chopstick.
5. Photocopy the Fish Cards onto salmon-colored cardstock. Then cut out the two-sided fish rectangles, one complete set per child.



Teaching Tie-In

Show the sample craft and say:

Have any of you ever been fishing? How about ice fishing? In the Arctic, Inuits ice fish by cutting a hole in the ice. Then they put a fake fish on a line and lower it in the hole and jiggle it.

People in the Arctic work hard at fishing because fish provide a way to stay well fed.

In a similar way, it's important for us to have not only our daily food but also our daily spiritual food. Our spiritual food comes from reading the Bible. Just like we don't want to go a day without food, we don't want to go a day without our spiritual food. God has given us His Book so we can have His words to "eat." Read Jeremiah 15:16.

Today's craft is an Icebreaker Fishing game you can play with your family as you eat meals together. Take it home and put it on your table. It will be fun to play as you fish

for icebreaker questions to answer together. But use it to remind you to read the Bible, too!

Class Time Directions

1. Assemble the gift box.
2. Dab a cotton ball into the light blue paint, then gently dab around the edge of the hole in the top of the box.
3. Lightly sprinkle some Epsom salt onto the painted area. Then shake off any excess.
4. Do the same thing (dab paint and sprinkle salt) along the base of each side of the box. Then set the box aside to dry.
5. Take the chopstick and apply a glue dot over the black dot.
6. Take string (or fish line) and press the pony bead (side with hole) onto the glue dot. Then run the fish line along the chopstick and secure it to the end of the chopstick with transparent tape. The rest of the fish line (with the magnet) should be hanging from the end of the chopstick like a fishing pole.
7. Use two glue dots to attach the piece of straw vertically to the side of the box near the top. Place the “fishing pole” into the straw piece “holder” and set aside.
8. Glue stick the insides of the two-sided fish. Then place a paper clip on one side and fold the other side over, pressing securely. Repeat for every fish.
9. Place all the fish inside the box, and you’re ready to fish!

Tip Corner

- Clothespins work well for holding cotton balls while painting.
- You don’t need as much paint as you might think. A little goes a long way!
- Do painting and salt work on large paper plates. When done, bend plate in half and pour excess salt back into the container.
- If pressed for time, paper clips can be clipped to the outside of the fish. Kids can glue them inside the fish at home.
- If ordering chopsticks or asking restaurants for donations, remember that they come in pairs!
- Epsom salt should not be ingested.

Super Simple Idea

Each day, at least one super simple option is included, which is a pre-made craft kit from Oriental Trading Company (1-800-875-8480 or visit orientaltrading.com) that goes along with the main concepts of the day.

As an alternative to the Icebreaker Fishing, try one of the following craft kits.

- DIY Scrolls (IN-13585815)—Manufacturer does not recommend for children under 3 years of age.
- Round Snowflake Christmas Ornament Craft Kit (IN-48/1992)—Manufacturer does not recommend for children under 3 years of age.

EASY OPERATION ARCTIC OPTIONS

These *Operation Arctic* products are easy, fun, inexpensive craft options for your kids. Check the Resource Catalog for ordering information.

- Backpack: Kids will love coloring *Operation Arctic* backpacks on the first day and using them the rest of the week! 11-5-144
- Snow Hat: Kids get to customize their own light-weight *Operation Arctic* snow hat to wear during the week! 11-5-145
- Scratch Art Set: Kids get a “northern lights” feel when they use a craft stick to scratch off these Animal Pal silhouettes to reveal a swirl of colors. 11-5-147
- Snow Goggles: Get ready for fun and games at *Operation Arctic* with these specially designed paper goggles that kids can color and wear! 11-5-148

Day 1 Craft

ICEBREAKER FISHING (V. 2)

PRE-PRIMARIES & TODDLERS

Materials

- Tissue boxes, 1 per child
- White spray paint
- Wooden chopsticks, 1 stick per child
- Light blue craft paint, amount varies
- Coarse sea salt, amount varies
- Fish Cards V. 2 (DVD-ROM)
- White cardstock, 1 sheet per child
- White iridescent chenille stems, 1 per child
- Colored chenille stems, 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ stems per child

Tools and Basic Supplies

- Office paper cutter
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. hole punches
- Cotton balls or large pom poms*, 1 per child
- Wooden clothespins, 1 per child
- Crayons or markers

*Pom poms are easier to work with but also a choking hazard.

Pre-Prep

1. Spray paint the tissue boxes white.
2. Photocopy the Fish Cards onto white cardstock. Then cut out the two-sided fish rectangles, 8 per child.
3. Cut the colored chenille stems (NOT iridescent chenille stems) into thirds (4-in. pieces). Each child will need 8 pieces.

Teaching Tie-In

Show the sample craft and say:

Have any of you ever been fishing? How about ice fishing? In the Arctic, Inuits ice fish by cutting a hole in the ice. Then they put a fake fish on a line and lower it in the hole and jiggle it.

People in the Arctic fish a lot because fish are an important food for them.



We need to eat our food every day, too, don't we? But you know what? We need to eat another kind of food—spiritual food. The Bible is full of God's words that fill us up with God's good thoughts. When we read the Bible, it's kind of like eating good thoughts to help us live wisely. We need to be reading them every day!

Today's craft is an Icebreaker Fishing game you can play with your family as you eat meals together. Take it home and put it on your table. It will be fun to play as you fish for icebreaker questions to answer together. But use it to remind you to read the Bible, too!

Class Time Directions

1. Insert the cotton ball (or pom pom) into the clothespin. Then dip the cotton ball (or pom pom) into the light blue paint and gently dab around the hole in the top of the box.
2. Lightly sprinkle some sea salt onto the painted area. Then shake off any excess.
3. Make a "fishing pole" with the chopstick and the iridescent chenille stem. Wrap one end of the chenille stem around one end of the chopstick. Then bend the other end of the chenille stem into a hook shape.

4. Color both sides of each fish. Glue stick the insides and fold together, pressing securely. Repeat for every fish.
5. Hole punch each fish at its mouth. Then take a short chenille piece, pass it through the hole and wrap the ends together, making a loop. Repeat for every fish.
6. Place the fish inside the box, and you're ready to fish!

Tip Corner

- You don't need as much paint as you might think. A little goes a long way!
- In lieu of paint, decorate the box with sparkly fun foam cut into small squares.

- If ordering chopsticks or asking restaurants for donations, remember that they come in pairs!

Super Simple Idea

Try one of the following Oriental Trading Company craft kits. (Call 1-800-875-8480 or visit orientaltrading.com.)

- DIY Scrolls (IN-13585815)—Manufacturer does not recommend for children under 3 years of age.
- Round Snowflake Christmas Ornament Craft Kit (IN-48/1992)—Manufacturer does not recommend for children under 3 years of age.