

PRIMARY COURSE OVERVIEW

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Title	B	I	B	L	E
	Book of Books	Incredible Impact	Bedrock Base	Letter of Love	Exciting to Explore
Treasure Point Lesson Focus	The Bible is the coolest book on the planet, unique in so many ways.	The Bible's message has had an incredible impact on earth.	The Bible is the bedrock foundation to build our lives on.	The Bible has a thrilling theme running throughout its pages.	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 S'now 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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Primary Teacher Guide

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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 Exploration Leader 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 *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:** Ages 2–4 years.
- **Pre-Primaries:** Ages 4–6 years, or age 4 through children who have completed Kindergarten.
- **Primaries:** Ages 6–9 years, or children who have completed grades 1–3.
- **Juniors:** Ages 9–12 years, or children who have completed grades 4–6.

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

TOP 20 TEACHING TIPS FOR EXPLORATION LEADERS

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).
2. God has entrusted you with the awesome privilege of opening His Word and sharing it daily with the children. Walk worthy!
3. Read through all your lesson plans well in advance. Begin to pray and plan, and continue to pray during and after VBS.
4. 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.
5. You may want to assign the task of gathering supplies for all the teachers to one person, or have the teachers divide up the lesson time supply list, with each being responsible for multiples of certain items. It's also helpful to get all the supplies ready in a box or bag ahead of time rather than gathering them day-by-day the week of VBS.
6. Attend the Teacher Workshop and the Gospel Workshop. Be prepared to share the good news of salvation!
7. Dress as if you are an exploration leader leading a team of explorers in the Arctic. Wear pants, an exploration leader T-shirt and hat. (See catalog.) Depending on how cool your room is, you may want to accessorize with a scarf or boots, or begin with a parka, ski goggles and the like, then take them off after a few minutes.
8. See the Decorating Decisions for a picture and description of the teaching set—the Arctic Circle Exploration Company. Items such as snow skis or showshoes can be leaning against the exterior of the cabin. Also, when setting up the room, you may want to clear away tables and chairs completely or move them to the back, depending on the room size and number of children expected.
9. Take on a persona to bring lessons to life. Dress in character and talk in first person. Some teachers enjoy making up a fun name, adopting an accent, etc. There are eight countries above the Arctic Circle, so there are lots of fun accent possibilities: Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Greenland (which is part of Denmark), Iceland, Canada, and the US (Alaska). But if accents aren't your thing, no problem! Teach in a way that makes you feel comfortable.
10. Call the children by name. Name tags help with this.
11. Make sure to keep eye contact as you share the lessons, helping each child sense your warmth and caring.
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. Ahead of time, bookmark the Bible passages you will be teaching from, and 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. When kids are sitting on the floor for drawing or writing activities, give them a firm surface (old magazines or books) to use underneath the papers.
17. 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.
18. Children like order. Think through potential trouble spots in your day and decide on a firm, loving discipline strategy. Ask for help from experienced individuals.
19. Children generally rise to the level expected of them, so challenge them to work on memory verses and their take-home student guides. Some may even want to try the bonus memory verse passage, which is Psalm 19:7–11, a wonderful passage about benefits of God's Word.
20. Have fun! Teaching should be a joy for you. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18).

AGE-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS

Kids are awesome! Each one is unique and is a special creation from the hand of our amazing Creator. With all their uniqueness, however, they also share some common characteristics. That doesn't mean every child always exhibits the following characteristics at the suggested age, but these guidelines can be a benchmark to use when looking at characteristics of children as a whole. It can be helpful to see how God has wired different age groups so we can be more effective in teaching and interacting with them.

First, you'll see characteristics of children in general and then characteristics of Primaries (ages 6–9 years) specifically.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN

Children have some common characteristics.

- They are all born sinners (Romans 3:23).
- God has given each a conscience, and they generally want good to win over evil.
- God has shown Himself to all children through His creation, making it obvious to all that there is a Creator.
- Children enjoy active learning—moving around, seeing things, touching things, smelling and hearing things, and being involved.
- Children need to be loved, encouraged, and praised.
- Children are rapidly growing and changing.
- Children trust the adults who are responsible for them.
- Children can get discouraged with criticism and failure.
- Children are eager to learn and are curious about the world and about God.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PRIMARIES

Physical Characteristics

Primaries love games and competitions, but it can be hard for them to lose. They are continuing to grow and improve in hand-eye coordination and fine and gross motor skills. They need to have opportunities for movement.

Takeaways for Us

- Use games to teach! Primaries love any kind of games, whether active or learning-type games.
- Help them learn to take turns and to be good winners and good losers! Both winning and losing well are important in God's sight.

- Use boy vs. girl competitions to get them revved up! As long as you keep it light and fun, they will enjoy these times!

Emotional/Social Characteristics

Primaries are becoming more independent and confident in their ability to do things. Girls play most often with girls and boys with boys, but there is some mixing of girl/boy friends. They like to have a best friend and enjoy pretend play. Primaries enjoy jokes and are gaining a sense of humor. They care about being accepted by the group and want adult/teacher approval.

Takeaways for Us

- Give Primaries plenty of opportunities to work in groups or with partners.
- Use humor with Primaries. The sillier, the better!
- Be careful to walk worthy—act and speak in godly ways.

Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

Primaries like to talk and ask questions. They understand simple concepts and sentences and are concrete in their thinking, rather than being able to understand abstract or symbolic thinking. They're learning to read. They need active learning. They're gaining a growing attention span. They understand the consequences of their actions. They can tell the difference between reality and fantasy. They often have a strict sense of right and wrong.

Takeaways for Us

- Be concrete in what you say. Don't use abstract or symbolic language. For example, regarding salvation, don't ask if they have Jesus in their hearts. They will take that literally. Becoming a child of God, or being in God's family, is a more concrete way to express the same concept as they will understand what it means to be in a family.
- Activities can stretch for a longer time as they are getting older, but it's still good to vary activities and involve Primaries actively and with movement as much as possible.
- Some children read better than others. Be careful about asking children to read out loud. Try asking for volunteers.
- Small print can be a challenge, so use larger print when possible.
- Encourage memorization.
- Use visuals.
- Show interest in each child, helping them sense your care and interest in them.

- Be careful to speak accurately and truthfully, and explain Bible words and concepts.
- Remember that you are a role model.
- Show care and respect for your Bible, and help them see your love for it and for the Lord.

SPECIAL NEEDS

The *Special Needs Teacher Supplement* (11-5-053) can help you accommodate and modify these lessons for those who need it, either in your regular classroom or in a self-contained classroom.

TREASURE POINT LESSONS

Kids will be learning a lot as they explore God's Word at Treasure Point Lessons. This session is written as a 35–40-minute period, divided into three sections.

- **Introduce It!** (5–10 minutes): Each day, the kids will be greeted with something interesting that captures their attention and begins the teaching of the day's lesson.
- **Teach It!** (25–30 minutes): The Bible teaching and apologetics content is presented during this time by costumed teachers.
- **Apply It!** (Remaining class time): This is the memory verse review and practical application time.

The lessons are jam-packed, so try to be organized and keep things moving. Ideas are written into each lesson to help you adapt if you have a longer or shorter lesson time

than the 35–40 minute block. Because of the content-rich lessons, a little extra time is great if you can swing it! But if not, there are lots of options, so you may want to shorten or skip some activities.

The lesson format is written for a two-person team. One person serves as Teacher One and the other as Teacher Two or the Teaching Assistant. The lesson format can also work if teaching alone. If you are team teaching, decide ahead of time who will be responsible for what. If you are teaching alone, simply find someone (e.g., staff person, volunteer, group guide) to help on any day you can use an extra set of hands. This is particularly helpful during the puppet script.

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.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Time	Group One	Group Two	Group Three
9:00–9:15	Snowfall Station Opening Assembly: Large Meeting Area (Everyone together)		
9:20–10:00	Treasure Point Lessons	Discovery Pass Science and Crafts	Glacier Gap Games and Klondike Corner Snacks
10:05–10:45	Glacier Gap Games and Klondike Corner Snacks	Treasure Point Lessons	Discovery Pass Science and Crafts
10:50–11:30	Discovery Pass Science and Crafts	Glacier Gap Games and Klondike Corner Snacks	Treasure Point Lessons
11:35–Noon	Snowfall Station Closing Assembly: Large Meeting Area (Everyone together)		

MEMORY VERSE SONGS

We have partnered with JumpStart3 (contemporary, NKJV, 11-5-069) and Majesty Music (traditional, KJV, 11-5-063) 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 learn their Bible verses easily. We suggest using the songs (either video or audio) during the memory verse time in each lesson. The Leader

Pack (DVD-ROM, Music CD) 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 (11-5-070 or 11-5-064). The option you choose will determine which type of media device you use to play it.

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 group guides 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.

- Primary NKJV (11-5-072)
- Primary KJV (11-5-133)

Explorer Guides: These fun interactive booklets feature the daily memory verse, fun phrase, stickers, and a place to stamp (11-5-093) for attendance. Check with your VBS

director to find out when she would like to give these to the kids first. They can receive them at any time during the first day. You can review them with the kids during the Apply It! section of the lesson, if you have time, or group guides can go over them during snack time. These are available in packs of 10.

- Junior/Primary NKJV (11-5-091)
- Junior/Primary KJV (11-5-137)

Bookmarks: These are available in packs of 10 and can be passed out at the end of each class or at the end of each day. The Animal Pals series can be used as rewards for those who learn their verses each day.

- Animal Pals series—one for each day (NKJV 11-5-078; KJV 11-5-140)—Days 1–5
- Gospel (11-5-076)—Day 4
- Books of the Bible (11-5-077)—Day 5

Exploring God’s Word: This little booklet encourages your students to continue studying God’s Word for weeks after VBS has finished. It features a daily question and answer found in the Scripture verse. You or the leaders can pass out one of these to each student on the last day of class. Available in packs of 10 (11-5-075).

Books of the Bible Cards: Encourage your kids to get to know the books of the Bible with this set of cards. Available in trading-card size (26-1-679) or as 5x7 cards (recommended for teacher use, 26-1-675).

DECORATING DECISIONS

The Arctic is a vast and intriguing wilderness with breathtaking scenery and fascinating creatures. Be creative and use the tools and 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

Your *Operation Arctic* classroom design features an Arctic exploration company outpost as the focal point for the teaching. The set consists of a small log cabin along with some snow-covered pine trees, snow mounds, a few animals, and various props to enhance the surroundings and bring it to life. On one wall, display the daily teaching posters and on the other wall, the fun phrase and memory verse posters.

Wall Covering

You'll need a backdrop for your set, so after you've decided in which corner to place the cabin, cover the two adjacent walls with light blue (or white) roll paper or plastic tablecloths to create a wintery background.

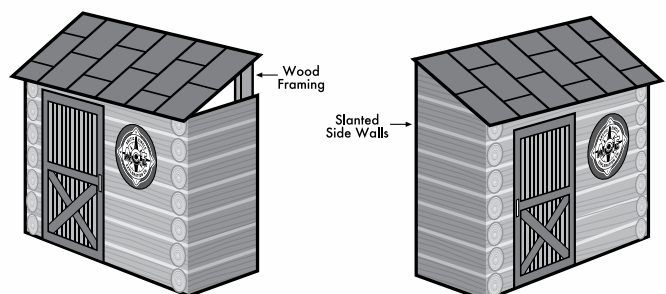
Log Cabin

Use corrugated cardboard sheets or large appliance boxes to make a small, three-sided cabin. The side walls of the cabin don't need to be very deep, but to support the angled roof, the tops should slant upward. Another way to support the roof is to add some wood framing to the back of the cabin.

To paint the logs for the cabin, use a standard sized roller and apply medium brown paint using straight, horizontal

strokes, leaving a 2-in. gap between the logs for the "chinking" (the broad, light colored bands that you see between the timbers). And don't forget to leave an area designated for the front door of the cabin. After the logs are painted, apply a band of light tan paint to the gaps between them using a small 2 to 3-in. roller or paintbrush. Then, after the logs are dry, add some texture and definition, using a "dry brush" technique (see box on next page) with 2 or 3 other shades of brown (darker brown and lighter brown).

The door should resemble a rustic barn door and should be painted with a base color that contrasts with the rest of the log cabin, like brick red. Then, after the base coat has dried, add thin black lines to define the door planks and use the "dry brush" technique with white paint to add some texture.



"DRY BRUSH" TECHNIQUE

The "dry brush" technique requires very little paint on the brush with any excess paint brushed off onto scrap cardboard or a test surface before applying paint to the cardboard. With what little paint remains on the brush, apply textured strokes sparingly and intermittently for the desired effect.

Finally, add a cardboard roof of appropriate size. You can shingle the roof with rectangular pieces of dark brown or black poster board or add a shingled texture using a concrete texture roller (available at home improvement stores) and a two-color painting technique. For the two-color technique, start with a base coat of medium brown. Then, pour two colors of paint (tan and black) into a paint tray side by side. Pick up the tan paint with one end of the roller and the black paint with the other end of the roller so both colors are on the roller at the same time. Some minor mixing of the two colors may occur, but this is not a problem. Then, in a repetitive fashion, roll the paint onto the cardboard with long vertical strokes, one column of paint beside the next, until you've moved from one side to the other. The result will be a tan/black, tan/black, tan/black textured pattern on top of the brown base coat, giving the roof a shingled appearance. Whichever method you use, don't forget to add some "snow" to the roof by sponging on some white paint.

ACE logo

The ACE (Arctic Circle Exploration Co.) logo should be mounted to the front of the cabin. Find the image on the Resource DVD-ROM and print large using a color printer. Then cut out the logo and mount it onto a round piece of cardboard or poster board for added stability. Or, a set of decorating posters, including the ACE logo, is available for purchase. It just needs to be mounted.



Evergreen Trees

To supplement the landscape, add a few evergreen trees. Use artificial trees lightly spray-painted white or make your own two-dimensional trees out of roll

Prop up your freestanding 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.

HOW TO ENLARGE AND TRANSFER CLIP ART

1. Photocopy the clip art onto transparencies.
2. Place roll paper or a rigid material against a wall.
3. Using an overhead projector to enlarge the clip art, shine the image onto the paper or rigid material, adjusting it as necessary for the size desired.
4. Trace the image outlines onto the paper or rigid material.
5. Paint the image and cut out.

paper, poster board, or corrugated cardboard. See the Resource DVD-ROM for pine tree clip art images.

Snow Drifts

Snow drifts of various shapes and sizes can really add to the frosty look of your classroom decorations. Make simple, two-dimensional drifts from white roll paper or poster board. Or, make freestanding drifts from corrugated cardboard propped from behind with wood supports. Paint them all white or light blue with white texture using a sponge or paintbrush.

Resource Posters

Contained in the Teacher Resource Kit are the daily teaching, fun phrase, and memory verse posters. These are important visuals for the explorers and should be displayed in an organized fashion. Large display areas can be created on one or both sides of the cabin.

Explorer Crossing Sign

Next to the cabin, add an "Explorer Crossing" sign. Find the image on the Resource DVD-ROM and print large using a color printer. (Or, a set of decorating posters, including the Explorer Crossing Sign, is available for purchase.) Then cut out the sign and mount it onto a piece of cardboard or poster board for added stability.

Assemble a wooden post and base for the sign using a 2x2-in. board for the post and a 1x12-in. board for the base. Simply cut the 2x2-in. board to a height of 42-in. to 48-in. and the 1x12-in. board so it forms a square base. Attach the post to the base, paint it black, then attach the Explorer Crossing sign.



Check out [Pinterest.com/AnswersVBS](https://www.pinterest.com/AnswersVBS) for colorful photos of decorations from our test churches!
Visit [YouTube.com/AnswersVBS](https://www.youtube.com/AnswersVBS) for how-to decorating videos!

Other Props, Tips, and Miscellaneous Ideas

- Check the Resource DVD-ROM for numerous clip art images, including a snowy owl and Arctic fox. Use an overhead projector to enlarge and transfer the images onto paper, poster board, or corrugated cardboard.
- Hang snowflakes of various sizes, shapes, and textures from the ceiling.
- Make paper or foil icicles and hang them throughout your classroom. Icicle templates are readily available online.
- String white or blue Christmas lights and/or icicle and snowflake lights from the ceiling to enhance the Arctic feel.
- Add “snow” to the ground and all your decorations using batting, gossamer, white sheets, white plastic tablecloths, white roll paper, white paint, snow spray, etc.
- Display props that explorers would need to have on their trek through the Arctic. Items might include boots, hats, gloves, goggles, snowshoes, parkas, duffle bags, backpacks, skis, ski poles, sled, etc.
- Add a thin (½-in.) black border to your painted props (trees, snow drifts, animals, signs, etc.). This helps them stand out better and makes the colors appear more vibrant.
- Because corrugated cardboard tends to curl when only one side is painted, first apply a quick, single coat of paint to the back.

Puppet Stage

Because puppets are used daily in the Primary rooms, you will need a puppet stage. Use the top half of the cabin door

for this purpose by cutting a small puppet door that opens. However, if you are using a scene setter that’s attached directly to the back wall, then make a puppet stage out of a large snow mound that’s mounted with a jack. The puppet can come up from behind the mound. Or, for a more generic approach, use a large cardboard box or tri-fold presentation board. Just cut a rectangular hole and cover the opening with fabric. Then decorate the outside as desired.

Classroom Scene Setter

As a quick and easy alternative to making your own classroom backdrop, a scene setter is available for purchase (11-5-126) from the Resource Catalog. Simply mount it to cardboard or foam sheets using clear packing tape or staples, or attach it directly to the wall with sticky tack or mounting putty. Another alternative for easy cleanup and wall protection is to apply strips of painter’s tape to the wall, then put double-sided tape over the painter’s tape, and attach the scene setter to the double-sided tape.



To add dimension to your cabin scene, we recommend placing the mountain scene behind your cabin (11-5-123).



Day 1

BOOK OF BOOKS

BIBLE PASSAGES

The Bible is One-of-a-Kind
(Selected Scriptures)

BIBLE GEM

"All Scripture is given by inspiration
of God . . ." 2 Timothy 3:16

TREASURE POINT LESSON FOCUS

The Bible is the coolest book
on the planet! It's completely
unique in many ways, including
being written by God Himself.

ANIMAL PAL

Blizzard the Polar Bear

APOLOGETICS FOCUS

Did you know the Bible isn't like
any other "religious" book?

Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Introduce It!
That's Unique!
- Teach It!
Part 1: One-of-a-Kind Book (Option 1—Puppet Pal, or
Option 2—Ready, Set, Snow!)
Part 2: How the Bible Came to Be
Part 3: Small Group Time
- Apply It!
Part 1: Bible Gems
Part 2: Go and Do
Part 3: BIBLE Handshake

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read Psalm 19 and Psalm 119 several times. Marvel at
this one-of-a-kind book.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials.
- For more information on how the Bible is unique and
how it came to be, visit answersvbs.com/oafaq.
- Pray.

Lesson Materials

FROM TEACHER RESOURCE KIT

- ☐ Theme Verse poster
- ☐ Day 1 Memory Verse poster
- ☐ Day 1 Fun Phrase poster
- ☐ Arctic Circle poster
- ☐ Coolest Book poster

FROM RESOURCE DVD-ROM

- ☐ Option 1: 2 copies of today's puppet script
- ☐ How the Bible Came to Be sheets, 1 per child
- ☐ Day 1 discussion sheets, 1 per small group leader

OTHER MATERIALS

- ☐ Bible or children's Bible (plus extras for small group time)
- ☐ Costumes for exploration leaders (teachers)
- ☐ Option 1: boy or girl puppet (in costume), puppet
stage, star stickers, and clipboard
- ☐ Option 2: small whiteboards and dry erase markers, or
paper and writing utensils (1 per team), and timer
- ☐ Writing utensils, 1 per child
- ☐ Large whiteboard and dry erase marker (or chalkboard
and chalk)
- ☐ Mounting putty or tape
- ☐ Apply It! section supplies
- ☐ Memory verse music CD and player

STUDENT EXTRAS

- ☐ Student guides (11-5-071, 11-5-132), 1 per child
- ☐ Explorer Guides (11-5-091, 11-5-137), 1 per child
- ☐ Stamp for Explorer Guides
- ☐ Blizzard bookmarks (11-5-078, 11-5-140), 1 per child

DEVOTION 1

BOOK OF BOOKS

"I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings and will not be ashamed." Psalm 119:46

During the early spring of 1524, a young priest slipped away from London and, without the king's leave, made his way to the European continent. He was never to see his homeland again, and for the next eleven years his life was an elaborate hide-and-seek as he was pursued, at one time, by four government agents. His crime and his life's ambition were one and the same: to translate the Bible from the original Hebrew and Greek and present it, printed and bound, so that even the boy who drove the plough could understand God's Word.

By the constitutions of Oxford of 1408, it was illegal—to pain of death—to read the scriptures in English without a bishop's license. To reinforce this, in April 1519, one woman and six men were burned to death at Coventry for teaching their children the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Apostles' Creed in English.

William Tyndale was born in Gloucestershire, England, studied at Oxford, and later Cambridge, and spent two years teaching the children of Sir John and Lady Walsh in their small manor house at Little Sodbury. Here he began to translate the New Testament, and by the time he arrived on the continent it was complete. The first ever printed New Testaments in English were smuggled back into England early in 1526. Though the bishops burned the Bibles and often their owners, the Word of God became an unstoppable force across the land—England had the Bible in the vernacular at last.

(Excerpted with permission from *Travel with William Tyndale* [Day One Publications] by Brian H. Edwards. See answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v2/n4/tyndale-and-english-bible.)

What drove William Tyndale to risk life and limb so that his fellow Englishmen could read the Bible in their own language? He knew the Bible was the "Book of books." No other book—or person—held the keys to eternal life. No other book laid out the prescription for godly living. No other book contained the true history of the universe and explained why the world is the way it is. No other book was God's written revelation to mankind.

Sadly, however, the English-speakers of Tyndale's time lacked even a rudimentary knowledge of what the Scriptures actually said. Investigations by a reforming bishop in

Tyndale's hometown of Gloucestershire revealed the following about the ignorance of the ministers in the area.

Of the unsatisfactory clergy in 1551, nine did not know how many commandments there were, 33 did not know where they appeared in the Bible (the gospel of St Matthew was a favourite guess) and 168 could not repeat them. Concerning the [Apostles'] Creed, 10 could not repeat it and 216 were unable to prove it; a large number of these said that they were perfectly satisfied that it was right because the king and Mother Church said so. Most extraordinary of all, perhaps, were the results of the Lord's Prayer part of the examination: 39 did not know where it appeared in the Bible, 34 did not know who was its author, and 10 actually proved unable to recite it. (David Daniell, *William Tyndale: A Biography* [Yale University Press, 1994], p. 78.)

Lest we come down too harshly on these clergymen of 400 years ago, let's ask ourselves how well we know the Book of books. Are we ardent students of the Word of God, mining jewels from its depths, or do we have a more casual relationship with the life-giving book, merely admiring the sparkle from afar? Consider this: how much are you willing to risk to bring the Word of God to the children in your care?

Today, as we study the uniqueness of this God-breathed collection of books, let's meditate on the words of the psalmist who realized that the Bible was set apart from all other books—it is the Word of God.

Forever, O LORD,
Your word is settled in heaven.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
You established the earth, and it abides.
They continue this day according to Your
ordinances,
For all are Your servants.
Unless Your law had been my delight,
I would then have perished in my affliction.
I will never forget Your precepts,
For by them You have given me life.
I am Yours, save me;
For I have sought Your precepts.
The wicked wait for me to destroy me,
But I will consider Your testimonies.
I have seen the consummation of all perfection,
But Your commandment is exceedingly broad.

Psalm 119:89–96

- ☐ Bible or children's Bible
- ☐ Costumes for exploration leaders (teachers)
- ☐ Arctic Circle poster (Teacher Resource Kit)
- ☐ Day 1 Fun Phrase poster (Teacher Resource Kit)
- ☐ Mounting putty or tape (for hanging posters)

PRE-PREP

1. Prepare your costumes.
2. Cut apart the Arctic Circle and Coolest Book posters.

✿ You may want to adopt a fun name like Exploration Eddie or Snowflake Sue.

✿ Be familiar with the lesson, but don't memorize it. Place it on a clipboard to use as a reference. You may want to decorate the back of your clipboard (the side the kids see when looking at you) with snowflake stickers.

✿ The Bible and mounting putty or tape are listed just once in each day's lesson, but plan to use them throughout.



INTRODUCE IT!

IMPORTANT NOTE: As you read these lessons, you will notice many opportunities throughout the week to present the gospel. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as to which of these opportunities to use.

That's Unique! (5 minutes)

As the explorers come in and get settled, say something like the following:

Exploration Leader One (Teacher One): Welcome, explorers! My name is ____, and I'll be one of your exploration leaders this week at the Arctic Circle Exploration Company.

Exploration Leader Two (Teacher Two or Teaching Assistant): And I'm ____, your other exploration leader.

Exploration Leader One: We'll be exploring the Arctic together as we head out on this week's mission—*Operation Arctic*. During *Operation Arctic*, we'll discover that the Arctic is a one-of-a-kind, unique place. It's really "cool!" (Get it? Cool?)

Exploration Leader Two: We get it! Well, we're excited to start our exploration, but first, let's take a couple minutes and get to know each other.

Exploration Leader One: Anyone know what the word "unique" means? Take answers. Unique means one-of-a-kind, like no one or nothing else. For instance, every person is unique. According to the Bible, God created each person fearfully and wonderfully in His image (e.g., Psalm 139). He made each of us a special, one-of-a-kind masterpiece. Turn to your neighbor and say, "Hi, unique person." Do so.

Exploration Leader Two: Now tell your neighbor your name and something unique about you—a combination of things nobody else could say about themselves, like "I'm the child of ____, I have one brother named ____, my birthday is ____, and my favorite cereal is ____." Do so.

Exploration Leader One: Places can be unique, too. For instance, New York City is unique. Turn to your neighbor and try to say "Unique New York" three times fast. Do so.

Exploration Leader Two: Could you do it? It's hard to say, isn't it? Well, there's a place on this globe that is absolutely unique. It's not like anywhere else. It's fascinating. It's extreme. It's take-your-breath-away beautiful. It's the Arctic.

Exploration Leader One: The Arctic is the region at the top of the world. That in and of itself is unique—there's only one top of the world!

Exploration Leader Two: Show the Arctic Circle poster. At the very tippy top, there's no land—just ocean. It's called the Arctic Ocean. The Arctic Ocean is surrounded by eight countries that are part of an area above what's called the Arctic Circle—an imaginary line near the top of the world. The countries that have land above the Arctic Circle are the United States (Alaska), Canada, Iceland, Greenland (which is part of Denmark), Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Russia. Turn to your neighbor and say "Russia" in a Russian accent, rolling your R. Do so.

Exploration Leader One: With all the unique people and things in this world, one is the most unique of all. Can you guess what is *the* most unique thing on the planet? Take guesses.

Exploration Leader Two: Did you say the Bible? It's a one-of-a-kind book, like no other book ever! In fact, our animal pal Blizzard reminds us the Bible is the Book of books! Show the Day 1 Fun Phrase poster. Let's say "B is for Book of books." Do so. Now let's check out a little more about why this book is *the* Book of all books.

TEACH IT!

Part 1: One-of-a-Kind Book

NOTE: There are two options listed for Part 1. If you have mainly first or second graders, the puppet show is a great option. If you have mainly third graders, the Ready, Set, Snow! game is a good option. However, either option works well for any of the children in this age group, so choose what fits your setting best. The game takes longer than the puppet pal.

Option 1: Puppet Pal—It's a Superstar! (5 minutes)

Each day, the puppet pal will be used to teach or reinforce the lesson. If you don't have a teaching assistant or co-teacher, enlist someone (a group guide or other volunteer) ahead of time to work the puppet each day. Give them a copy of the script to become familiar with. If you're alone, you and the puppet can both be behind the top half of the door of the Arctic Exploration Company cabin. Or you can make a large snow mound mounted with a jack and you can stand behind that. (See Decorating Decisions for more info about the puppet stage.)

You can use either a boy or a girl puppet. Use a consistent voice for the puppet all week. Speak clearly and exaggerate words and expressions. For instance, draw out certain words for emphasis, or make an exaggerated action for things like groaning, turning its head, or sneezing. Use your free hand to do things with the puppet's hands or arms. For example, if the puppet is "thinking," put the puppet's hand on its chin. When the puppet is talking, make sure the mouth is open. (This is the opposite of what people often do!) In other words, the mouth should be open on most syllables. You don't have to open very wide, which will help you move the mouth faster and more naturally.

When the puppet is entering, hold your arm back and down and have the puppet take three steps forward, getting higher each time, until the puppet is out and visible. When exiting, turn the puppet toward you and take three steps down until out of sight.

Teacher: Boys and girls, let me introduce you to our puppet pal, and he (she) can introduce himself (herself) and tell you more about this Book of books, the Bible.

Puppet: Hey there, everybody! My name is Kai and I live in Alaska, above the Arctic Circle. I love to go exploring on my dogsled, and I also love to explore something else—my Bible! It's the coolest book on the planet!

Teacher: It sure is, Kai. The Bible is a treasure!

Puppet: Oh, yeah, it's a one-of-a-kind book all right, written by God! In fact, I think it deserves an award!

Teacher: I've got some stars here. Show them.

Puppet: That would be great! Well, to start, the Bible gets a star for being the only book that is God-breathed, or inspired. That means every word of it is from God Himself!

Teacher: Slap a star sticker on Kai's shirt. **WOW! God wrote us a book! It's the Book of all books!**

Puppet: But that's not all. The Bible deserves more stars! For instance, it's the best book ever.

Teacher: What makes it the best book ever?

Puppet: For one, it's perfect. The original writings didn't have even ONE mistake.

- ☐ Boy or girl puppet (in costume) and puppet stage
- ☐ Star stickers
- ☐ Coolest Book poster (Teacher Resource Kit)
- ☐ Clipboard
- ☐ 2 copies of today's puppet script (Resource DVD-ROM)

PRE-PREP

1. Photocopy the script. Tape one inside the puppet stage and place the other one on the clipboard.
2. Get the puppet in costume and the puppet stage ready. A costume can be a mini T-shirt with the VBS logo and/or a hat or scarf.
3. One teacher should be in front of the puppet stage with the clipboard and one should be behind it ready to work the puppet.

✿ The kids will love the daily puppet show, so try to fit it in each day even if you have to shorten it a little.

✿ The name "Kai" rhymes with "Hi."

Teacher: That's incredible! What else makes it the best book ever?

Puppet: Well, it's impossible for God to lie (Titus 1:2), and He wrote it! So that means every word in the Bible is completely true!

Teacher: I'm convinced. Here's another star for being the best book ever. Stick another star on Kai's shirt.

Puppet: And how about the fact that the Bible has been read by more people than any other book in the whole world?

Teacher: That deserves star three, for being the most read book. Put a star on Kai's arm.

Puppet: It's also written in the most languages. Most books are written in just one language, and some are written, or translated, into just two or three other languages. But the Bible has been written in over 2,000 languages! No other book comes even close.

Teacher: Si, si, star four, for being written in the most languages. Put another star on Kai's other arm.

Puppet: And there are more copies of the Bible than any other book. Year after year, it's always the best selling book.

Teacher: Star five. This is amazing. Put a star on Kai's head.

Puppet: And the Bible is also the best survivor of all times.

Teacher: You mean even better than the TV show *Survivor*?

Puppet: Oh, way better. Throughout time, kings and emperors and other people have tried to ban it, burn it, and outlaw it. They want to live by their rules, not God's rules. But it never works. No one will ever succeed in destroying God's Word. The Bible says:

Read Matthew 24:35, which talks about heaven and earth passing away but God's words never passing away.

Teacher: That certainly deserves a star. Put a star on Kai's ear.

Puppet: What about the fact that the Bible is the best copied book of all time?

Teacher: What's that mean?

Puppet: Well, the original writings were written before there were copy machines. The originals were perfect and without any errors. To get more copies from the first books of the Bible, they were copied by hand. Now there are other old books around that were hand copied too, but they all have tons of mistakes in them. But not so with the Bible! The Old Testament of the Bible was copied very accurately by a group of people called scribes. They took their job seriously.

Teacher: I've heard about scribes. They had strict rules for copying. Some would even take a bath and put on clean undergarments before they started.

Puppet: Yep.

Teacher: And they counted and recounted the letters they copied to make sure they hadn't missed even one. If they made a mistake, they threw the whole page away and started over.

Puppet: Yep! Yep! And when someone wrote the word "God," he dipped his pen in fresh ink. And how about if a king showed up? They wouldn't look up even if the king talked to them while they were writing!

Teacher: That deserves a star, too. Put a star on Kai's other ear.

Puppet: And how about the fact that God changes the lives of people who read the Bible? Ask around, and you'll hear over and over how the message of the Bible changes people's lives in wonderful ways.

Teacher: God has certainly used His Word, the Bible, to change my life! I love God's Word. Well, I think we could go on and on, Kai, but at this point. I'm sure the boys and girls see that the Bible is a book like no other book. It's a superstar! Place the last star on Kai's mouth.

Puppet: Talk in a muffled voice. It's the Book of books! Well I've gotta go do some exploring in my Bible! See you later!

Teacher: See you later, Kai!

When finished with the puppet, show the Coolest Book poster and talk about it for a minute as a review. Then tell them you're going to take it away and see how many things they can remember that were on it. They have 30 seconds to tell your or their group guides as many as possible.

Option 2: Ready, Set, Snow! (10–15 minutes)

Let's learn some more about this extra-special Book of books. To do so, we're going to play a game called Ready, Set, Snow! We'll divide into teams. Each team will receive a whiteboard (or paper, such as a notepad) to record the answers. We'll read the question, and your team will have 20 seconds to write down your answer. When I say, "Ready, Set, Snow!" you'll show your answer. If you're correct, you'll draw a small snowflake on your board in the corner. You're on the honor system here! At the end, we'll total up the snowflakes. Whoever has the most wins. Any questions?

Let me remind you to talk softly, so your answer isn't heard by the other teams. Okay, let's get into teams and we'll begin.

Get into teams and pass out supplies. (If you have a small class, you may want to have just two teams—boys and girls. Or, if your class is large, you may need to divide into many teams. Try to have from two to five on a team. Plan a quick way to divide up so it isn't eating up lots of class time.)

Read the question, allow 20 seconds for explorers to record the answer, then reveal the correct answer and share the accompanying information listed under each answer.

Ready, Set, Snow! Questions

1. What book was written by God?

The Bible. The Bible claims to be inspired, or God-breathed. Other books that claim to be from God don't agree with the Bible, so we know they weren't written by God. This makes it the Book of books, in a class all its own.

2. The Bible is the best-selling and most read book of all time. A) True; B) False

A) True. No other book even comes close. Year after year, it is the best seller and the most read book.

3. How many promises can we count in the Bible? A) Over 1,000; B) Over 8,000

B) Over 8,000. If God promises it, you can count on it! God is truth. He can't lie (Titus 1:2), so the Bible, His Word, is completely trustworthy.

4. Even though they've tried, people aren't able to _____ the Bible. A) Destroy; B) Hide; C) Lose



- ☐ Small whiteboards and dry erase markers, or paper and writing utensils, 1 per team
- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Coolest Book poster (Teacher Resource Kit)

❄️ A stopwatch on a smartphone works as a timer.

❄️ From this point on, Exploration Leader One and Exploration Leader Two are not designated. If you are team teaching, decide which person wants to do what. If you are by yourself, do all.

❄️ For a quicker alternative, delete some questions in Ready, Set, Snow!

❄️ To stay on track with time, allow one minute per question.

A) Destroy. Throughout time, kings and emperors have tried to ban it, burn it, and outlaw it. They want to live by their rules, not God's rules. But no one will ever succeed in destroying God's Word. The Bible says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

5. The word *Bible* means _____. A) Paper; B) Book

B) Book. When we say "the Bible," we are really saying "the Book." It's not *a* book, but *the* Book. God wrote us a book! Wow! It's actually a collection of 66 smaller books, all written by God.

6. People speak different languages, right? So if they want to read a book in their language, it has to be what is called "translated." How many languages and dialects has the Bible been translated into? A) Over 1,000; B) Over 2,000

B) Over 2,000. Most books are written in just one language. Some have been translated into two or three languages. No book even comes close to being translated into as many languages as the Bible. People all over the world can read it in their own language! But there are also many people who don't have the Bible in their language. Missionaries are needed who can learn these languages and translate the Bible into them.

7. Before we had machines to print Bibles, who copied the Old Testament portions of the Bible? A) Priests; B) Scribes

B) Scribes. Do you know what a copy machine is? Well, scribes lived before the age of copy machines, so they were specially trained to copy the Bible by hand to make manuscripts. They followed very strict rules for copying. Different groups of scribes had different rules. Here are just a few examples of rules of various scribes.

- They took a bath and put on clean undergarments before they started.
- They counted and recounted the letters they copied to make sure they hadn't missed even one. If they made a mistake, they threw the whole page away and started over.
- Even if a king addressed them while writing, they didn't look up or acknowledge him.
- When they wrote the word "God," they dipped their pens in fresh ink.

Scribes took their job of copying the Bible very seriously.

8. What important discovery in 1947 shows how well copied the Bible is? A) Dead Sea Scrolls; B) Jericho Parchments; C) Blues Clues

A) Dead Sea Scrolls. Scrolls were what scribes wrote on back in the day. Back then, they didn't have paper like we have today, so they wrote on scrolls made from long strips of animal skins or a plant called papyrus. These strips were sewn together and rolled up.

Well, very important scrolls called the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in caves located high in the cliffs overlooking the Dead Sea. They were handwritten copies of the Old Testament that had been copied in the nearby town and stored in clay jars since before Jesus' time on earth over 2,000 years ago. The original writings were perfect, and we have great copies of those originals today.

9. What is the most loved book of all time?

The Bible. It inspires great devotion, so much so that people have gone to great lengths to get it. One young girl was Mary Jones, who was born in 1784 in Wales. Her family was poor, but she wanted to have her own Bible so badly that she worked and saved for six years to buy one. When she was 16, she walked 25 miles to the home

of man who had Bibles to buy one from him. Others have gone to great risks to give it to others because they want people to have God's life-giving words. For example, in 1793 William Carey left England and moved to India to tell others about Jesus and to translate and print Bibles into many Indian languages. Those who love the Bible realize it has answers that can't be found anywhere else on earth and that it has the most important message ever: the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. It's the coolest book on the planet!

To review, when you are finished with the game, show the Coolest Book poster and talk about it for a minute. Then tell them you're going to take it away and see how many things they can remember that were on it. They have 30 seconds to tell their group guides as many as possible. When done, show the poster again and give them a bonus snowflake for each right answer. Tally the points and announce the winners.

If you are running short on time, do the Coolest Book poster review mentioned above at the start of the next day or another day this week.



❄ To make the review faster, have them shout out everything they can remember that was on the Coolest Book poster and don't award snowflake points.

- ☐ How the Bible Came to Be sheets, 1 per child (Resource DVD-ROM)
- ☐ Writing utensils, 1 per child
- ☐ Large whiteboard and dry erase marker for up front (or chalkboard and chalk)

PRE-PREP

1. Photocopy the How the Bible Came to Be sheets, 1 per child.
2. Practice making the drawings on the board so you will be quick at it when going through it with the kids.

Part 2: How the Bible Came to Be (10 minutes)

Okay, turn to your fellow explorers and tell them one unique thing you just found out about the Bible from our puppet pal (or from the Ready, Set, Snow! game). But did you ever wonder how this unique book got to be written in the first place? I mean, did God sit up in heaven and type it on a jumbo computer? No! But it *is* unique in how it came to be. Let me tell you the exciting and true story of how the Bible ended up looking like it does now, as a book. As I tell this story, ____ (Teacher Two) will be making simple drawings that you'll copy. Let's pass out the supplies and then we'll begin.

Give everyone the How the Bible Came to Be sheets and something to write/draw with.

Drawing 1—People/Cloud

Teacher Two: Quickly sketch two stick people and a cloud with a voice coming from it (see sidebar illustration) on a whiteboard as Teacher One talks. The kids copy it.

About 6,000 years ago, at the beginning of time, we learn from the Bible that the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, lived in the Garden of Eden. What's incredible to think about is that God talked to them directly! God talked directly to other people, too, like Noah and Abraham.

Drawing 2—Ten Commandments

Teacher Two: Quickly sketch the outline of the Ten Commandments.

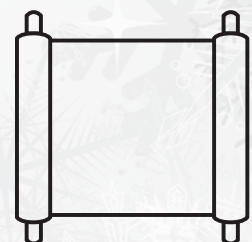
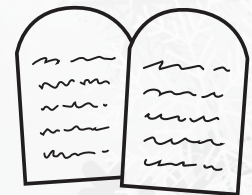
God chose a man named Moses to write down His Word. God even wrote some of the words Himself, including the Ten Commandments, on a stone tablet.

Drawing 3—Scroll

Teacher Two: Quickly sketch a scroll.

Moses wrote as God guided him. Back then, they didn't have paper like our paper now, so Moses wrote on scrolls. Scrolls, as we mentioned before, were made from long strips of animal skin or plant material. These strips were sewn together and rolled into a tube shape.

Moses wrote God's words for the first five books of the Bible. Let's see if any of you know what the names of the first five books of the Bible are. (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.) Moses also wrote some of the psalms.



Drawing 4—Clay Tablets

Teacher Two: Quickly sketch a clay tablet with a wooden stick.



After that, God chose other men to record His words—around 40, in fact. These men had different jobs: fishermen, kings, shepherds, farmers, teachers, and a doctor, to name a few. They wrote during a span of over 1,500 years. That's a long time! That's like from the beginning of the Middle Ages until now! Think about how much has changed! Tell your neighbor an invention we have now that they didn't have a long time ago. Do so. Wow! And of course, the writing methods changed during all that time. Think of it like this. What were people writing with 1,500 years ago? (Quill pens) What do they use today? (Computers) That's a big change! And it was a big change for the men writing God's Word, too. Some wrote on clay tablets with wooden sticks. Some wrote on animal skins. Some wrote on papyrus, paper made from plants that were woven together. Some people wrote on stone. Eventually, people began using paper that was a little more like what we're used to. Every word they wrote was exactly what God put in their minds (2 Peter 1:21). And what's really incredible is that the whole Bible agrees in all parts. Even though the men God chose lived at different times, and even on different continents (3 different continents), and even wrote in different languages (3 different languages), it still all fits together perfectly! It would be like if everyone drew a piece of a puzzle without finding out what anyone else had drawn (doing so over a 1,500-year time span), and when all the puzzle pieces were put together at the end of the time, it made a perfect, beautiful picture! Now that's incredible!

Drawing 5—Quill Pen

Teacher Two: Quickly sketch a quill pen.



As each book was written, it was accepted as the Word of God by the people. Eventually 66 smaller books were collected into what we know today as one big book, the Bible. Each original book of the Bible was perfect and complete. As we mentioned earlier, the scribes copied each small book of the Old Testament by hand whenever they wanted to make another copy.

Drawing 6—Bible

Teacher Two: Quickly sketch a Bible.



In 1440, a man named Johannes Gutenberg invented a great machine that allowed the Bible to be copied faster than by hand. Now they could make copies of the Bible on a machine called the printing press using sheets of paper that would be bound together.

This allowed Bibles to be printed and distributed all over the world. This was great news because people everywhere could now have Bibles to read.

When you read it, you will find it has the most wonderful, true story in the whole world. It tells us how God created the world, how people messed up the world, and how God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sin. It tells us how much God loves us and how we can become His child. It tells us how to live our lives. It's God's special love letter to us.

Explain that, according to the Bible, sin is disobeying God's commands. We have all disobeyed God's commands. (We have lied, been unkind, disobeyed our parents.) This sin separates us from our holy God, and the penalty for sin is death and eternal separation from God's goodness forever. We need someone to pay the penalty for our sin. To receive the gift of eternal life with God, we must repent of our sins (admit) and believe in Jesus. Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, died on the Cross to pay for our sins, and then rose from the dead. We can receive the gift of eternal life.

I love the Bible and trust it completely. I hope you do, too. Remember—it's not like any other book. All other books, including other "religious" writings like Islam's Koran,

Mormonism's Book of Mormon, or Hinduism's Vedas, were written by men. These writings DO have mistakes, and they DON'T have the power of the one true God.

These other religious books are not part of the Bible, and in fact, they often oppose the Bible's teachings. For example, the Koran says God has no son (Sura 4:171 and 23:19). But in the Bible, Jesus is called the Son of God (Matthew 26:63–64). The Book of Mormon says people are not born sinners (Moroni 8:8). The Bible teaches we are sinful from birth (Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23).

Also, these other books often aren't consistent within the book itself. For instance, in one place in the Koran it says Jesus will live in paradise (Sura 3:45), and in another place, it says Jesus will live in hell (Sura 21:98). And they aren't consistent with true history. For example, in the original Book of Mormon (prior to the change in 1981), it was taught that American Indians would turn white when they converted to Mormonism (2 Nephi 30:6). But this isn't what actually happened. (None turned white if they converted.)

On the contrary, the Bible was written by God Himself—God who cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrew 6:18) and cannot make a mistake, so we know every word of the Bible has to be perfect and true (John 17:17)! It will never disagree with itself. Nothing will ever be wrong in it. The Bible is absolutely unique and trustworthy!

Part 3: Small Group Time (5–10 minutes)

Divide into small groups of 4–6, with a group guide or exploration leader in each group. (Adjust depending on how many leaders and kids you have.) Discuss the following questions using the discussion sheets.

1. Besides the Bible, what's a favorite book of yours? What do you like about it?
2. Other books can be fine, but the Bible is in a class all its own. What do you think is something cool about the Bible? It may be something you heard today!
3. Let's see if we can find the very first verse in the Bible! Either do together with one Bible or pass out Bibles and have them see if they can find Genesis 1:1 with a partner. Explain how you look up the book, then the chapter, then the verse. (This will be dealt with more later in the week.)
4. The Bible has an amazing message of how we can be saved from our sins and have eternal life with God when we die. Do you know if you have received the gift of eternal life?

APPLY IT!

In the remaining time, complete one or more of the following ideas in class. Supplies for this section are not included in the supply list on the back cover since they will vary depending on the activities you choose, so decide what you will do and add them to your supply list accordingly.

Pass out the Blizzard bookmarks, one per child, or have guides do so at the end of the day. Put a stamp in the Explorer Guides (or do so at snack time), and/or review the student guides.

Part 1: Bible Gems

Today's Verse: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God . . ." 2 Timothy 3:16

Explain the following words.

All—All means all. Every single word in the Bible is God-breathed. Some people think just some of it is God's Word, but the Bible itself says all Scripture is inspired by God.

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Day 1 discussion sheets, 1 per small group leader (Resource DVD-ROM)

PRE-PREP

1. Photocopy the discussion sheets.

- ☐ Memory verse music CD and player
- ☐ Student guides and supplies for Part 1 and Part 2
- ☐ Explorer Guides, 1 per child
- ☐ Stamp for Explorer Guides
- ☐ Blizzard bookmarks, 1 per child
- ☐ Day 1 Memory Verse poster (Teacher Resource Kit)
- ☐ Theme Verse poster (Teacher Resource Kit)



Scripture—Scripture is another name for the Bible.

Inspiration—Inspiration means men wrote down the words as God breathed them out (2 Peter 1:21). **The original manuscripts were God's words written without error.**

Practice the verse several times by playing the appropriate song from the memory verse CD and using the Memory Verse poster as a reference, then try the following challenge.

Challenge: Write the memory verse on a piece of copy paper. Now make a "scroll" by rolling both ends toward the middle. (You may want to use a pencil to roll it around.) Open your scroll and read the verse. Roll it in a little so it covers some words and try to say it again. Roll it in some more and try to say it again. Continue until all the words are covered and you can say the verse without looking.

Tomorrow's Verse: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

Try the challenge again, this time using tomorrow's verse. You may also want to practice the week's theme verse, using the Theme Verse poster as a reference.



✿ End each day's Treasure Point lesson with prayer.

Part 2: Go and Do

- Guess which book of the Bible is right in the middle? Psalms! Find Psalm 1 with an adult's help and read it or listen to it being read. What does it say the person is like who delights in God's Word? Draw a picture to illustrate that and show it to someone!
- Talk to God (that's prayer!) and ask Him to help you love Him and love His Word more.
- Ask an adult who follows Jesus to show you his Bible. What does he love about it?
- Check answersvbs.com/oakids for more fun information!

Ask yourself these questions: Do I have a Bible at home? What should I do to get to know God better through this Book of books?

Remember: The student guide is great to send home as a take-home, fun review. Consider giving contest bonus points for every Go and Do section completed.

Part 3: BIBLE Handshake

Explorers get ready to leave by learning the handshake. After they learn the handshake, they shake hands with other explorers on their way out. This is a quick way to review the BIBLE acronym. (Use the Fun Phrase poster as a reminder of the letter and what it stands for.) If you don't have time to do this at the end of the lesson, start with it tomorrow or have the assembly leaders do this during closing assembly time.

Today, explorers learn the first part of the handshake, *B*. Each day, they'll add another letter. For today, form thumb and index finger into a circle and link them with another explorer's fingers, forming a *B* with the two circles together. Say, "Book of books."

Check YouTube.com/AnswersVBS for a video demonstration of the BIBLE handshakes!

