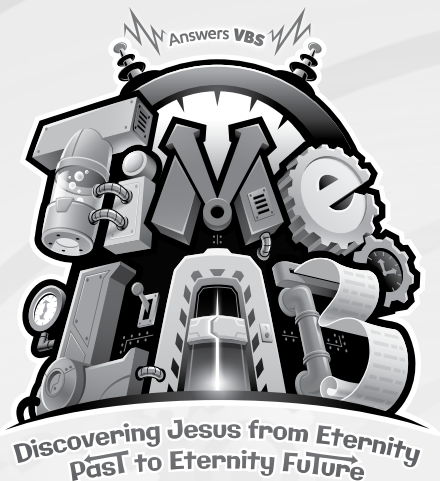




# HELPER HANDBOOK

 **Answers**  
IN GENESIS™



## Limited license to copy:

A limited license is available to make copies of this book. You may make copies of portions of the book if 1) you are the purchaser; 2) the copies are used exclusively for non-commercial purposes within your church or organization (an entire denomination is not considered a “church” or “organization” under this license); and 3) you follow the instructions provided in the book.

---

### *Helper Handbook*

Copyright © 2018 Answers in Genesis. Limited license to copy.

For more information, write:

Answers in Genesis

PO Box 510, Hebron, KY 41048

Project Coordinator: Stacia McKeever

Written by Randy & Barb Witt

Edited by Mikayla Klein and Joan Hartley

Interior layout by Diane King

Cover design by Jon Seest

Illustrations by Paul Agner

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Printed in China

# Contents

<b>Let's Get Charged Up!</b> . . . . .	<b>4</b>
Our Goal . . . . .	5
Frequently Asked Questions . . . . .	6
Terms to Know . . . . .	6
<b>Staff Devotions</b> . . . . .	<b>7</b>
Devotion 1 Destination: Creation . . . . .	7
Devotion 2 Destination: Old Testament Locations . . . . .	8
Devotion 3 Destination: Visitation . . . . .	10
Devotion 4 Destination: Preparation . . . . .	12
Devotion 5 Destination: Celebration . . . . .	13
<b>Top 20 Tips When Working with Children</b> . . . . .	<b>15</b>
<b>Age-Level Characteristics</b> . . . . .	<b>17</b>
<b>Child Safety Precautions</b> . . . . .	<b>23</b>
<b>Leading a Child to Christ</b> . . . . .	<b>24</b>
<b>VBS Daily Overviews</b> . . . . .	<b>27</b>
Day 1 Overview . . . . .	27
Day 2 Overview . . . . .	28
Day 3 Overview . . . . .	29
Day 4 Overview . . . . .	30
Day 5 Overview . . . . .	31
<b>Memory Verses</b> . . . . .	<b>32</b>
ESV Memory Verses . . . . .	32
KJV Memory Verses . . . . .	33
<b>Terrific Trivia Tidbits</b> . . . . .	<b>34</b>
<b>It's a Laughing Matter</b> . . . . .	<b>38</b>
<b>Two-Minute Tips</b> . . . . .	<b>40</b>

# Let's Get Charged Up!

Wouldn't it be amazing to travel back in time and witness epic events in history? Imagine the thrill of meeting great heroes of the faith like Abraham, Moses, or Gideon. Or the fun of experiencing life in ancient cultures like Rome. Or the fascination of watching famous inventors make discoveries that change the world.

Now imagine traveling through time and meeting *the* most important man ever—a man who was not just a man but who was also God. One who turned the world upside-down. One who existed outside of time.

We'll do just that as we embark on *Time Lab* from Answers VBS. We'll use words beginning with "C" to help us remember that Jesus, our forever faithful, loving, caring, promise-keeping Lord, has been with us always!

**Day 1 Creation**—Did you know the Son of God has always existed? We'll talk about his existence before time and his activity at creation.

**Day 2 Christophany**—Big, cool word the kids will love learning that teaches the Son of God didn't start as a babe in a manger but has been around forever, actively involved throughout history, including Old Testament times.

**Day 3 Cross**—Here's when Jesus comes to earth and is given the name "Jesus." And here's where he lives, dies, and comes back to life. It's the most epic historical account ever! Because of him, we can live forever, too!

**Day 4 Clouds**—After Jesus rose again, where did he go? He's actively working on our behalf as he sits at the right hand of God the Father, interceding for us, protecting his church, and preparing a place for his children! Wow!

**Day 5 Crown**—We'll end our tour through time at the new heaven and new earth, where Jesus and his children will live together in the most amazing place forever. Whatever your best day *ever* has been, this will blow it away!

Excitement will be running high from the first minute our time travelers arrive at *Time Lab*. They'll start their day at the **Atomic Assembly**, a supercharged opening complete with entertaining welcomes, rockin' songs, a mission moment, and prayer. Then we're off to four fun rotation sites:

**Simulation Station**, the teaching time. Here, time travelers discover Jesus throughout all the pages of the Bible and realize he's a joy and thrill to find.

**Bits and Bytes Snacks**, the snack spot. Time travelers will enjoy having a "byte" of yummy brain food to eat!

**Quantum Leap Games**, the recreation location. Time travelers realize every nanosecond counts as they race against time and encounter fun physical challenges and games from ancient (and not-so-ancient) time periods.

**Inventors' Science and Crafts**, the science, craft, music, mission, and memory verse spot. This location features a wide array of activities to choose from: electrifying science experiments to explore, creative crafts to invent, high-energy songs to sing, fun memory verse games to play, and mission time to investigate (for those who want to spend more time than is given during the Assembly).

After finishing the day's rotations, everyone heads back to the **Atomic Assembly** for the closing 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 features an inventor tinkering in his lab as he works on his most important invention—his time machine. Will he get it to work? Will it go back in time? Forward in time? Laughs abound and adventures await in this wacky and entertaining drama.

Time sure will fly while we're having fun. So head this way and get ready to launch into hyperdrive as we take off for *Time Lab*! Let's go!

## **Our Goal**

We are so thankful for how God has chosen to use the Answers VBS programs over the past decade! 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?

Our primary goal has always been 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 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, we combine a biblically rich VBS loaded with substance with off-the-charts, irresistible fun. In a day and age when content sometimes suffers, it's critically important to us not to sacrifice rich content. But it's also crucial that the most exciting book in the world not come across as boring or irrelevant. 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. We're praying for you!

# Frequently Asked Questions

The content of *Time Lab* may be new to you. For a list of helpful articles on the topics covered in this VBS program, please visit [AnswersVBS.com/tlfaq](http://AnswersVBS.com/tlfaq).

## 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.

- **Time Travelers:** The kids at VBS. Time travelers are put in teams named after elements in the periodic table (e.g., Team Beryllium, Team Cobalt, Team Copper, Team Silver, Team Gold).
- **Time Keepers:** Team leaders who guide the time travelers from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required for this position.
- **Scientists (Dr. Slimestein or Dr. Slime, Professor Timely or Professor Time, etc.):** Teachers at the Simulation Station lesson time.
- **Simulation Station:** Rotation site where Bible and apologetics teaching occurs.
- **Atomic Assembly:** Spot where everyone joins together for the opening and closing assemblies.
- **Inventors' Science and Crafts:** Rotation site where kids make crafts, perform science experiments, sing songs, learn memory verses, and explore missions around the world.
- **Bits and Bytes Snacks:** Indoor or outdoor site where yummy snacks are served.
- **Quantum Leap Games:** Indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred) for game time.
- **High Voltage Verses:** Daily memory verses.
- **Animal Pals:** Friendly animal mascots used to emphasize the key point of each day's lesson.
- **Creature Feature:** Daily time during the opening or closing assembly when we marvel together at God's design of various thematic 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.

# Staff Devotions

## Devotion 1

### Destination: Creation

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1*

Imagine meeting a man who claimed to be God. What would you think? Crazy nut?

Now imagine this man claimed to be the fulfillment of statements written hundreds of years before. Sure, sure, weirdo.

Now imagine the little boy down the street who had died was running around again. The man who claimed to be God had raised him from the dead. It was no trick—you had seen the boy after he died, and he was now playing with your kids.

The more you hear him teach, the more you realize this *man* is claiming to be the I Am—the eternally existent one. The man standing before you made the trees in the beginning? He made the dinosaurs and . . . you?

Makes you think, doesn't it? Could this man really be who he claimed to be?

This is Jesus.

Even though today we would (and should) scoff at someone staking a claim to deity, Jesus Christ was the real deal. He was the Creator incarnate, the God-Man, the one who came to save his people from their sins, fulfilling the promises God had made since the beginning of time. In fact, he

is the creator of time itself and exists outside of time from all eternity. He didn't begin as a babe in a manger—he has existed from all eternity, calling the worlds into being, fashioning the planets and stars, speaking life into a lump of dust, and planning his entrance into time and his subsequent death from the very beginning.

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:16–20

As you study your Bible, focus your attention on Genesis 1 and John 1. Of all the people who have ever lived, ever led a religion, ever claimed to be

a deity, only Jesus has the credentials to deserve our worship and devotion. And the only way we can know the truth about him is through his inspired Word, the Bible.

As you prepare to meet Jesus the Creator with your students today, let's meditate on this Puritan prayer about our eternal God and Savior Jesus Christ.

O Lord God, who inhabits eternity  
The heavens declare thy glory,  
The earth thy riches,  
The universe is thy temple;  
Thy presence fills immensity,  
Yet thou hast of thy pleasure  
created life,  
and communicated happiness;  
Thou hast made me what I am,  
and given me  
what I have;

In thee I live and move and have my being;

Thy providence has set the bounds of my habitation,  
and wisely administers all my affairs.

I thank thee for thy riches to me in Jesus,  
for the unclouded revelation of him in thy Word,  
where I behold his Person,  
character, grace, glory,  
humiliation, sufferings, death, and resurrection;  
Impress me deeply with a sense of thine  
omnipresence, that thou art about my path,  
my ways, my lying down, my end.

—Arthur Bennet, *The Valley of Vision*

(The Banner of Truth Trust: 2005),  
"God the Source of All Good."