

TODDLER

Course Overview

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Title	Destination: Creation	Destination: Old Testament Locations	Destination: Visitation	Destination: Preparation	Destination: Celebration
Time Tracker	Jesus* Before and at Creation	Jesus* in the Old Testament	Jesus in the New Testament	Jesus Now	Jesus in the Future
Simulation Station Lesson Focus	Jesus <i>always has been, always will be</i> with us.	Jesus <i>always has been, always will be</i> a promise keeper, from Old Testament times to forever.	Jesus <i>always has been, always will be</i> ready to love and forgive those who truly want to become his children.	Jesus <i>always has been, always will be</i> caring for his children, even now from heaven.	Jesus <i>always has been, always will be</i> in charge, including when he reigns as King of kings in the new heaven and new earth.
Bible Passages	Genesis 1	Exodus 3	Selected Verses	Acts 1 John 14:2-3	Revelation 21-22
High Voltage Verses	All things were created through him and for him. Colossians 1:16	Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8	For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16	I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:2	At the name of Jesus every knee should bow. Philippians 2:10
Animal Pals	Flutter the Sparrow	Lottie the Lamb	Sergeant the St. Bernard	Bucky the Beaver	King the Lion
Daily C	Creation	Christophany	Cross	Cloud	Crown
Exploration Stations	Discovery Center: Play Clay Critters Touch Table: Shaping Up Dramatic Play: Time Travel Coloring Corner: Colossians 1:16	Discovery Center: Tick Tock Clocks Touch Table: The Desert Dramatic Play: Time Travel Coloring Corner: Hebrews 13:8	Discovery Center: Blind and Now I See Touch Table: Christmas Creations Dramatic Play: Time Travel Coloring Corner: John 3:16	Discovery Center: Cloud Creations Touch Table: Nuts and Bolts Dramatic Play: Time Travel Coloring Corner: John 14:2	Discovery Center: Foil Inventions Touch Table: Celebration Station Dramatic Play: Time Travel Coloring Corner: Philippians 2:10
Quantum Leap Games	Three-Sided Search Flutter Flies	Rush Around the Bush Lottie the Lamb Game	Follow That Star Sergeant Saves	Musical Clouds Bucky the Builder	Launch and Land Crown King
Inventors' Science and Crafts	Eternity Circler Flutter's Nest	Burning Bush Light Lottie the Lamb Headband	Criss-Cross Sergeant's Barrel	Time Warp Time Capsule Bucky's Building	Build-a-Bot Pencil Holder King the Lion Puppet
Bits and Bytes Snacks	Trinity Trio Eternity Rings	Sarah's Cakes Shepherd's Rods	Resurrection Brownies Bread and Grape Jam	Mansion of Many Rooms Bucket of Bolts	King's Crowns Rocket Time
Cool Contests	Back in Time Candy Contest	Backwards Day Team Cheers	Christmas in ____ (month of your VBS)	Dress-Up Day Design-the-Time Challenge	Mission Money Mania Names of Jesus Challenge

* Jesus was given the name "Jesus" at his birth.



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Toddler Teacher Guide

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Handy Helps

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.

But 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 during Old Testament times.

Day 3 Cross—Here's when Jesus comes to earth and is actually 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 super-charged opening complete with entertaining welcomes, rockin' songs, a mission moment, and prayer.

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

After finishing the day's rotations, everyone will head 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 doesn't 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!

Your Role

Your role as the teacher is outlined in the following pages and includes planning and preparing lessons, enthusiastically engaging in teaching the lessons, and praying over all aspects of your job. Read this guide

carefully and prayerfully, using our suggestions combined with the ideas the Holy Spirit brings to your mind.

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

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.

Terms to Know

Throughout the VBS curriculum, various terms will be used. Here's a list of some of the most common terms to know. Note that toddlers don't rotate around as the older kids do but stay with their same leaders the whole day.

- **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, etc.).
- **Time Keepers:** Team leaders who guide the time travelers from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required for this position.
- **Scientists (Dr. Slime, 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.

Top 20 Toddler Teaching Tips

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. Show love. Warmly greet each child every day, and always be ready with smiles, kind words, and appropriate hugs. (Make sure to be aware of your church's appropriate touching policies.)
3. Read through all your lesson plans well in advance. Become familiar with the Toddler section of the Resource DVD-ROM. Begin to pray and plan, and continue to pray during and after VBS. God has given you the awesome privilege of building the foundation of his Word into the lives of these little children. Walk worthy!
In this guide:
 - » Teaching Tips are marked with a 🕒.
 - » Materials for each activity are listed next to the activity.
 - » The "teacher says" portion is bolded.
4. A puppet is used each day to reinforce the lesson. It may also be used to help welcome the children, sing a song, or review the lesson or memory verse. The puppet can come out from the portal on the set if there are two of you to do the puppet skit. Or, if working alone, the puppet can come up from behind a suitcase with the lid flipped open, or you can just stand and work the puppet.
5. Think safety. Read the Child Safety Precautions file on the Resource DVD-ROM for more information.
6. Have parents fill out detailed forms. See the Resource DVD-ROM for a registration form. The more information you have, the better care you can give.
7. Keep decorations out of the way so no one gets hurt. Do not have strings or cords around in which children may become entangled. Be careful of heavy decorations or toys that can fall on a child.
8. Maintain a low child-to-adult ratio for this age group, such as 4:1. Lots of help is important to ensure proper care, safety, and love!
9. Be careful of choking hazards associated with toys, craft materials, and Exploration Station materials. Keep things big and chunky. Items should be bigger than a toddler's mouth to avoid choking.
10. Modify the Exploration Stations as your situation warrants. Use as suggested or incorporate one or more ideas into the Lesson Time instead, so you can do the activities with the whole group at one time.
11. Keep most activities in a self-contained room. Outdoor play time should be in a well-defined space so no one strays. Check with parents to see if you may use sunscreen on their child. Limit the time you are outside, or place your play area in the shade.
12. Keep extra supplies on hand, such as diapers, swim-mies, tissues, and safe snacks.
13. When walking from place to place, consider using double or triple strollers (2-year-olds), or have the children hold onto a rope (3-4-year-olds).
14. Hands-on, sensory activities are important to accommodate these little tikes with their short attention spans. Involve them and their senses!
15. Toddlers and young preschoolers may or may not sit during lesson time. If they sit, it won't be for long! Keep the lesson moving, and keep them moving!
16. Use simple words over and over. This age likes repetition, so repeat the Bible verse and the song words many times throughout the VBS day.
17. Use your Bible as you teach the lessons. Bookmark the verses ahead of time. Through your facial expressions and your actions, show the importance of the Scriptures.
18. Follow your church's check-in and check-out procedures for this age group. Be careful to whom you dismiss a child. Release only to that child's authorized individuals.
19. Use brown lunch bags labeled with the child's name to send everything home each day.
20. At the end of each day, clean the toys and items used by the children. Wash linens. Wipe down tables and other areas of use. Empty trash cans and diaper pails. Set up for the next day.

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 and can be used to help us be more effective in teaching and interacting with them.

First, you'll see characteristics of children in general and then characteristics of toddlers (ages 2–4 years) specifically.

Characteristics of Children

Children have some common characteristics.

- They are 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 Toddlers

Physical Characteristics

Toddlers are active! They're on the move, running, climbing, and exploring. They're beginning to perform simple tasks, like using scissors. They can easily get hurt as they are rapidly developing physical skills but don't have wisdom to know when to stop running, climbing, etc.

Takeaways for Us

- Keep toddlers moving. Engage them actively as much as possible. Have them do motions to songs and actions to Bible accounts.
- Supervise them carefully.

- Provide chunky, nontoxic supplies.
- Intersperse periods of sitting with something active.

Emotional/Social Characteristics

Toddlers want to do things by themselves, such as picking out their clothes and dressing themselves. They like imaginative, dramatic play. They're testing their powers and saying "no" a lot. They often want to please adults and try to mimic their behaviors. They're affectionate toward others. Toddlers are fearful of things that are loud and out of the ordinary.

Takeaways for Us

- Let toddlers be helpers. Give them simple one-step jobs to do, and have them help pick up things and straighten the room at the end of the lesson. Let them know they've done a good job.
- Be consistently present all week; establish routines and stick with them.
- Be consistent in discipline. Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no."
- Give them opportunities to dress up and play imaginatively.
- Adults—don't dress in elaborate costumes that may seem unfamiliar and scary.
- Be careful to walk worthy—act and speak in godly ways. Little eyes are watching and will want to imitate you!

Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

Toddlers are curious and want to touch, smell, feel, see, and experience their world. They have short attention spans and learn/communicate in short sentences. They understand short and simple directions. They believe what you say. Their attitude toward God and others is in the process of being formed during these years.

Takeaways for Us

- Involve toddlers' senses in learning! The more they can touch, smell, see, taste, and feel, the better!
- Give clear, simple directions.
- Keep activities and lessons short. Toddlers' attention spans are only a few minutes long before they need to switch to something new, so keep it moving!
- Be careful to speak accurately and truthfully.
- 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* (11-6-053) can help you accommodate and modify these lessons for those who need it, either in your regular classroom or in a self-contained classroom.

Toddler Schedule

When working with this age group, flexibility is key. In some cases, they are dropped off early and picked up late by parents who have VBS responsibilities. It may be important to revamp the schedule as necessary by removing some activities and allowing for more rest and free play.

Be aware that young ones get tired as the day wears on, even more so as the week wears on. The schedule may work fine at the beginning of the day or week, but toward the end, less is often better.

Exploration Station Time

There are four Exploration Stations: Discovery Center, Touch Table, Dramatic Play, and Coloring Corner. These stations should be set up at the end of the room opposite where the lesson time is held or in an adjoining room. See the Exploration Stations Supply List on the back cover for a list of all the supplies needed each day.

Note: If stations aren't possible, simply choose one or more of the station activities to incorporate somewhere into your day as a whole group activity.

Children may rotate together through each station every few minutes, or they may independently move from one to another. They don't need to do every station each day. Send the coloring page home daily, colored or uncolored. Also, many of these are big hits and can be repeated other days.

Post the signs with each station's name. Consider posting the directions and teaching tie-in for each station as well, so the leaders will be able to share the main point with the kids. (See Resource DVD-ROM.) Check the decorating section for more specifics on setting up the Dramatic Play area to look like a time travel station and the Coloring Corner to look like a time tunnel. For the touch table, use a small wading pool or a large, clear, under-the-bed storage container. Place it on a plastic tarp or tablecloth to catch the spills.

Bible Learning Time

The Bible Learning Time is divided into three sections:

- Lesson Time
- Song Time
- Memory Verse/Review Time

The lesson time works well with a two-person team. One person serves as Teacher One and the other as Teacher Two or the Teaching Assistant. The lesson can also be taught alone. If team teaching, decide ahead of time who will do what. If teaching alone, find someone (time keeper, staff person, etc.) to help any time you might need an extra set of hands (puppet pal time especially).

Check the Resource Catalog for a fun T-shirt to wear while you teach!

Below is a sample schedule with descriptions of each time period. Check with your director for a copy of your specific schedule and room assignment.

Sample Schedule Based on a 3-hour VBS

Note: This schedule reflects a 30-minute period before VBS begins to accommodate VBS parents' schedules.

8:30–9:00	Arrival/Free Play Morning VBS Program—Breakfast Snack
9:00–9:15	Atomic Opening Assembly
9:15–9:40	Exploration Stations (Session 1)
9:40–10:05	Lesson Time, Song Time, Memory Verse/ Review Time
10:05–10:30	Quantum Leap Games
10:30–10:45	Inventors' Science and Crafts (Session 1)
10:45–11:00	Exploration Stations (Session 2)
11:00–11:20	Bits and Bytes Snacks and Rest Time
11:20–11:35	Inventors' Science and Crafts (Session 2)
11:35–11:55	Atomic Closing Assembly
11:55–Dismissal	Return to Room/Dismissal

Arrival	In some cases, children in this age group will arrive earlier than the rest of VBS. Therefore, make sure you're there earlier than the rest of the team, as well! Be ready to greet your little ones with smiles, hugs, and love. Follow your church's check-in procedures and safety precautions.
Free Play	Provide inviting toys ready for free play. Help them become familiar with their VBS space.
Breakfast Snack	If you are running a morning VBS, offer a small snack. This helps them get used to their setting as they focus on food rather than being dropped off at the nursery! See page 18 for ideas.
Atomic Opening Assembly	Walk the children to the opening assembly. Request to be seated in the front on small chairs or in a special spot so the children can see. Plan to leave before or during the last song so you are back in your room before the other children leave.
Exploration Stations (Session 1)	Allow the children to explore the stations or participate in free play during this time. See the Resource DVD-ROM for patterns.
Lesson Time, Song Time, Memory Verse/ Review Time	This is the heart of the day. If some of the other activities need to go, make sure this one <i>does</i> happen! Present the lesson early before fatigue sets in. At the same time, if you notice the kids are especially antsy or tired, remain flexible and switch activities. You can come back later to finish the lesson, or you can break it up and finish it the next day.
Quantum Leap Games	Play inside or outside. Just spend time playing! Young children learn as they explore their world. See page 13 for game ideas.
Inventors' Science and Crafts (Session 1)	Toddlers and young preschoolers need simple crafts. Gluing sensory items (cotton balls, fabric, sandpaper, etc.) onto papers, attaching stickers, and coloring are always a hit. See page 16 for craft specifics.
Exploration Stations (Session 2)	Allow the children to continue exploring the stations.
Bits and Bytes Snacks and Rest Time	Make sure all snacks are bite-sized and not choking hazards. Be alert to any allergies children may have. See page 18 for ideas.
Inventors' Science and Crafts (Session 2)	If the children seem up for it, try a second craft before heading out to the closing assembly.
Atomic Closing Assembly	Take them to the closing assembly, once again sitting close to the front. Leave five minutes early so they are back in their room when VBS is dismissed. Follow your church's safe dismissal procedures.

Memory Verse Songs

We have partnered with Seeds Family Worship (contemporary, ESV, 11-6-069) and Majesty Music (traditional, KJV, 11-6-063) 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. If you choose to use these songs, you can use them (either video or audio) during the memory verse time in each lesson. The Leader Pack comes with

the purchase of a Super Starter Kit and can also be purchased separately. You can also purchase and download the songs individually from our online store for use on a handheld device (answersbookstore.com). Student CDs in packs of 10 are available if you would like each student to have a copy of the songs (11-6-061 or 11-6-062). 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.

Simple Songs: The songs referenced throughout this guide that are just for Pre-Primaries and Toddlers are available on the Resource DVD-ROM (you'll need to upload them to an MP3 player) and on a separate *Simple Songs for Kids* CD (11-6-141) that you can play in a CD player. You may want to purchase one of the CDs for each child.

Student Guides: These age-appropriate guides feature a lesson review on the front of each daily take-home paper, as well as the memory verse, verse review game suggestion, and "Go and Do" section on the back that parallels the Memory Verse/Review Time 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. The student guides are available in packs of 10.

- Toddler ESV (11-6-074)
- Toddler KJV (11-6-135)

Time Traveler Guides: These fun interactive booklets feature the daily memory verses, animal pals, stickers, and a place to stamp (11-3-093) for attendance. They can receive them at any time during the first day, and you can review them with the kids during the Memory Verse/Review Time section of the lesson. These are available in packs of 10.

- Pre-Primary/Toddler ESV (11-6-090)
- Pre-Primary/Toddler KJV (11-6-138)

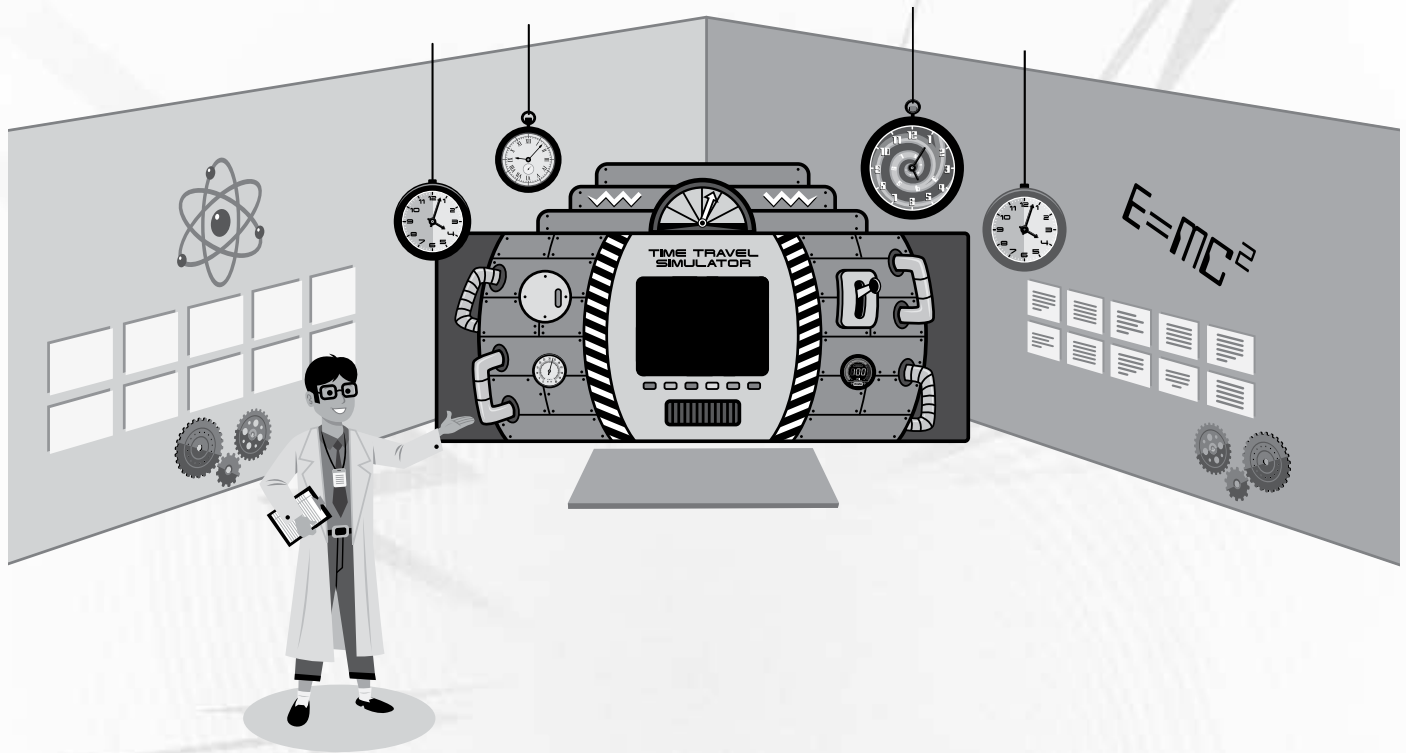
Bookmarks: These are available in packs of 10 and can be passed out at the end of each day.

- Animal Pals series—one for each day (ESV 11-6-078; KJV 11-6-140)—Days 1-5
- Gospel (11-6-076)—Day 3
- Names of Jesus (11-6-077)—Day 5

Decorating Decisions

Although make believe, the prospect of time travel rouses everyone's curiosity! Who wouldn't like to travel back in time to see a famous person or witness an event in history? So use your creativity with your classroom

decorations, along with the ideas in this section to capture the imaginations of the kids. Remember that a colorful and engaging environment helps children learn better, remember more, and leave with happy memories.



Key Decorating Elements

Your *Time Lab* classroom features a simulation station (“Sim Station”) with a Time Travel Simulator backdrop as the focal point for the teaching. The daily Sim Station posters are mounted on a black screen in the center of the simulator, while the teaching, memory verse, and animal pal posters are displayed on the adjacent walls.

Time Travel Simulator

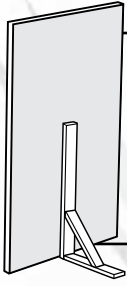
Your Time Travel Simulator can be constructed with sheets of corrugated cardboard or foam insulation. First, decide how large you want your simulator to be, then draw an outline on the cardboard or insulation sheets. You'll need to maintain some excess area on both sides of the simulator for pipes that'll protrude from the machine. Use a base color of steel blue for the simulator and black for the excess areas.

In the center of the simulator and at least 18 in. below the top, create a display area. Paint a large area of light gray bordered with yellow and black striped caution strips. Then add a black screen in the center. The black

screen can be painted directly onto the gray, or a separate piece of cardboard can be painted black and mounted with plastic nylon screws and wing nuts. To accommodate the daily Sim Station posters, the screen should be 2½ ft. high x 3½ ft. wide.

Next, use a straight edge and a small brush to add horizontal and vertical lines to the steel blue areas to resemble metal plating. Then add dots in the corners for rivets.

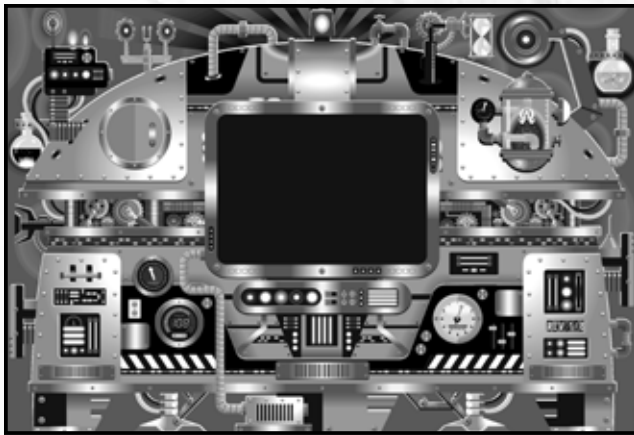
Now it's time to add the accessories. Find the Time Tracker poster in your VBS kit and cut out as directed. Then mount it directly above the display area. Add a portal for puppets to the upper left or upper right side. Also, check out the Resource DVD-ROM for clip art images of pressure gauges, pipes, lightning bolts, etc. You can print color versions to mount directly to the simulator or print black line versions and use an overhead projector to transfer the images onto the cardboard or insulation. For the pipes and lightning bolts, use bright or neon colors, then add highlights and shadows with a “dry” brush to create dimension, where necessary. (The dry brush



Prop up your set, and any free-standing decorations, with wooden jacks made from 2x4, 2x3, or 2x2 boards. Smaller decorations will need smaller jacks and larger decorations will need larger ones. If necessary, jacks can be weighted down with bags of sand or road salt.

technique requires very little paint on the brush with any excess brushed off before applying paint to the image. With what little paint remains on the brush, apply sparingly until the desired effect is created.) Finally, consider adding LED rope lighting or Christmas lights around the perimeter of the black screen to enhance the simulation.

Classroom Scene Setter



As a quick and easy alternative to creating your own classroom backdrop, a scene setter is available for purchase (11-6-126) from the *Resource Catalog*. Simply mount it to cardboard or foam insulation 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. Mavalus® tape also works well.

Puppet Stage

Because puppets are used daily in the Toddler classrooms, you will need a puppet stage. Paint a portal on the upper left or upper right side of the Time Travel Simulator for this purpose and then cut it so it will open. If you are using the scene setter that is attached directly to a wall; then make a puppet stage out of a large cardboard box or

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, if necessary, and cut out.

a tri-fold display board. Cut out a rectangular hole in the box or display board, cover the hole with fabric, and then decorate the outside as desired.

Resource Posters

Contained in the Teacher Resource Kit are the daily Sim Station posters for the Time Travel Simulator. Also included are the teaching, memory verse, and animal pal posters. These are important visuals for the time travelers and should be displayed in an organized fashion. Large display areas can be created on one or both sides of the simulator for the teaching, memory verse, and animal pal posters. The Sim Station posters go in the middle of the simulator on the black screen. These posters change each day as we simulate traveling to a new destination daily. When the students arrive, the Sim Station posters should be covered with black poster board, foam core board, plastic tablecloth, or roll paper. When the time simulation occurs as noted in the lessons, the black cover should be taken off so the students can see the Sim Station posters.

Other Props, Tips, and Miscellaneous Ideas

- Hang a variety of clock images from the ceiling. See the Resource DVD-ROM for clip art.
- Decorate the walls with gears, atom symbols, and scientific formulas. See the Resource DVD-ROM for clip art images.
- Place a rug in front of your Time Travel Simulator to create a stage effect.
- Add a thin (½-inch) black border to your props. 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.

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!

Exploration Stations

Toddler classes will enjoy Exploration Stations, which will include the Discovery Center, Touch Table, Dramatic Play area, and Coloring Corner. Further information about these stations can be found on page 24, but check below for details on how to make the Dramatic Play area and Coloring Corner.



of twinkling white lights, top to bottom, and secured with black duct tape or clear packing tape.

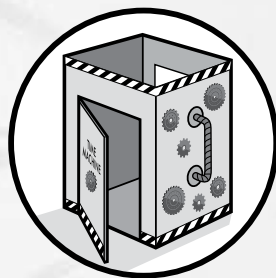
After the time machine is finished and it's time to prepare the room, designate a corner to decorate. The size of the area should be determined by the size of the time machine and the Time Warp panels that serve to shield the corner from view. Then, cover the walls with tan roll paper and decorate according to the Exploration Station Dramatic Play daily write-ups.

Coloring Corner

In another corner of your room, set up a time tunnel coloring corner for the kids to enjoy as they color and learn their memory verses. Start with a standard 8-foot table and position it at a 45 degree angle to the corner. Then drape the top, front, and sides with black plastic tablecloths. Secure the tablecloths with duct tape so they won't move around. Hang white icicle lights around the rim of the table with clear packing tape. Cut a small opening in the front. Finish it off with a tunnel for the kids to crawl through.

Dramatic Play Area

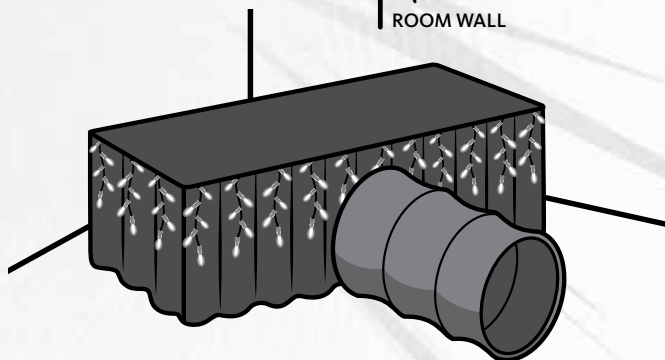
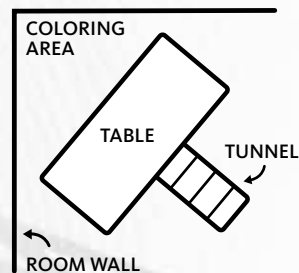
Your Dramatic Play area will feature a time machine made from a large cardboard box (or several boxes put together). First, paint the outside of the box (or boxes) to cover any print. Gray or silver is a good choice for a base color. Then cut a door in the front for the kids to enter and a door in the rear for the kids to exit into the decorated time period. Decorate the outside of the box with colorful gears, gauges, and pipes (flexible dryer vent works great for this) and the inside with control panels of knobs and levers. Then outline the edges with caution tape.



SIDE VIEW OF TIME MACHINE

Next, add large Time Warp panels of corrugated cardboard to each side to shield the decorated time period area from view. Paint the panels black and hang strands

TOP VIEW



Quantum Leap Games

Playing is what this age group does best! While they're playing, they're learning. We find these games to be an important part of the teaching process as they help to cement the lessons into the kids' minds in a fun way.

Consider having an outdoor play time if you have a good space for it. It's nice to break up the day and have a new location to explore. The outdoor location should be enclosed so no one wanders off. If you don't have a safe area, use tarped hay bales or snow fencing to create one. Ask church families to bring in plastic slides, big wheel riding toys, and other age-appropriate outdoor

equipment. Make sure they're labeled so they can easily be returned after VBS.

You may also want to consider having wading pools with a small amount of water for outdoor playtime. (Supervise carefully.) Make sure parents are notified ahead of time to bring swim floats, a swimsuit, a towel, and extra clothes for their child. Ask if it's okay to put sunscreen on their child, and apply it at least ten minutes before going outside. If possible, place the pools in a shady area.

For game time, use the following suggestions or other games from the game guide. Any of these ideas may be repeated throughout the week as time allows.

Thematic Game Ideas

Day 1

THREE-SIDED SEARCH

Before class, hide some brightly colored card stock triangles of various colors around the playing area. Hide enough for each child to find one of each color. Share the teaching tie-in; then have the kids see if they can each first find a yellow one, then a blue one, and so forth.

Teaching Tie-In: We're going to play a game today where we're searching for three-sided shapes. Do you know what a shape with three sides is called? Take responses. **Right, a triangle!** Hold up a triangle and point to it as you say the following. **Triangles remind me of God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit—three persons, but one God! Let's see if we can find yellow triangles first. Pick up only yellow triangles. Ready? Let's go!**

FLUTTER FLIES

No pre-prep is needed for this game. Share the teaching tie-in; then have them fly around, pretending to be Flutter the Sparrow, as you give various directions for them to follow, such as:

- Let's fly slowly and softly in a circle.
- Let's fly a little faster, going in a straight line.
- Let's walk along and pretend we're looking for worms.
- Let's fly over here (point) and all pretend to get in a nest together.
- Let's spread out and have the first Flutter in the line fly to the next Flutter. Then that Flutter flies to the next Flutter. And so on.
- Let's slowly fly over to (pick a spot) and back.

Teaching Tie-In: Today's animal pal is Flutter the Sparrow. The Bible tells us (read Matthew 6:26). Jesus cares for and feeds the birds, like Flutter the Sparrow, yet he cares so much more for you! You are much more special to God than any plant or animal! Doesn't that make you happy? Let's pretend we're Flutter and fly around as I tell you where to fly.

Day 2

RUSH AROUND THE BUSH

Before class, make a start line with cones or tape and cut an orange plastic tablecloth in half lengthwise. Place both pieces in a long strip for a finish line. Share the teaching tie-in; then have children form a line so they are spread apart. On the "Go!" signal, kids run to the burning bush (the finish line), take off their shoes, run back to start, run back to the burning bush to find their shoes, and run back to start. If they are struggling to get their shoes off and on, skip the shoe part.

Teaching Tie-In: One day, a man named Moses was in a hot place called the wilderness. And guess what he saw? A bush that was *burning*, but not *burning up*! It was a miracle from God! God was speaking to him from the bush. It was such an unusual, one-of-a-kind experience that God told Moses to take his shoes off out of respect for God.

In today's game, we'll run to the burning bush, which is our orange line, and take our shoes off. Then we'll run back here, then run to get our shoes, then run back here again. Do you think you can do it? We'll help you! Let's get lined up!

LOTTIE THE LAMB GAME

Before class, set up one course (or multiple identical courses if you have lots of kids) in an upside-down

triangle shape using tape, chalk, or cones. From the start line, which is the lowermost point of the triangle, move to the next triangle point, which is diagonal to the left, and lay down a bright green poster board. This will act as the lamb's green pasture. Lay down a bright blue poster board at the next triangle point directly across from the green pasture. This will act as the lamb's watering hole. Put a white or brown poster board at the start line.

Share the teaching tie-in; then have everyone line up at the start line. One at a time, have them first go to the green pasture and lie down, then get up and go to the watering hole and pretend to drink, then come back. When one "lamb" has passed the green pasture triangle point, send the next one.

Teaching Tie-In: Today's animal pal is Lottie the Lamb. Let's get down on all fours and pretend to be a lamb. Can you say "baaa"? Do so. The Bible tells us shepherds take care of lambs. Listen to this! Read Psalm 23:1-2. Jesus is called the Good Shepherd. He takes care of us, his little lambs. Isn't it great knowing Jesus loves us and cares for us?

We're going to play a little game pretending we're little lambs, first going to the green pastures to lie down and rest for a minute, then going to the waters to get a drink. Here we go!

Day 3

FOLLOW THAT STAR

Before class, make a yellow star out of card stock (see Resource DVD-ROM) and attach it to a yardstick or dowel rod.

Share the teaching tie-in; then have the kids line up behind you. This is played like Follow the Leader, except you hold up the star and they follow you around, doing different motions as you go.

Teaching Tie-In: When Jesus was born, many special things happened. This is because it was God coming to earth! There were angels announcing his birth, and later, there was even a special, one-of-a-kind star in the sky that led some kings (wise men) to where Jesus was. The Bible had said this would happen, and it did, just as promised! Jesus always keeps his promises!

Today, we're going to play Follow That Star to remind us of the special star that led the kings to baby Jesus!

SERGEANT SAVES

Before class, make little St. Bernard "barrels" for the kids to wear. You will need one per team. These can be made from empty coffee cans with lids, powdered drink containers, or Lay's STAX® containers. Poke a hole through the two ends so a cord long enough to tie around a child's waist can go through it. (Having velcro at the ends is a big

time saver.) Also, gather two buckets per team, one with water in it, and one that's empty.

Share the teaching tie-in; then explain they will be like Sergeant and help in a rescue mission by bringing water down the road.

Divide into two or more teams. The first person on each team opens his "barrel" and fills it with water (with a leader's help), closes it, and puts it around his waist (with leader's help). He barks and moves on all fours to the empty bucket, empties the water, and comes back. Then he passes the "barrel" to the next person. Continue in this manner and see how fast they can help with the rescue mission!

Teaching Tie-In: Today's animal pal is Sergeant. He's a St. Bernard dog. St. Bernards were used for many years to help find people who were lost in snowstorms. Sergeant reminds me of someone else who helps rescue lost people—Jesus! He came to earth to help us and save us from our sin!

Let's play Sergeant Saves as we remember that Jesus came to rescue us!

Day 4

MUSICAL CLOUDS

Ahead of time, gather some hula hoops and space them out. Also, get a CD player and the VBS music CD.

Share the teaching tie-in; then tell the kids each hula hoop is a pretend cloud. Play the music, and after a little bit, pause it. When they hear it stop, they all need to get in a "cloud."

Teaching Tie-In: Jesus was put to death by some wicked men. Then he was put in a tomb, and a heavy stone was put over the entrance. But guess what? Jesus didn't stay dead! He came back to life and showed himself to lots of people for 40 days. At the end of that time, Jesus went up to heaven. Do you know how he went up? Take responses. He was lifted up and a cloud covered him as he went out of sight. Wow, that must have been so cool to stand there and watch him go! And someday, Jesus will come back in the clouds to get all his children! It will be so, so exciting!

Today, we're going to play Musical Clouds as we remember how Jesus went to heaven in a cloud.

BUCKY THE BUILDER

Before class, make a start line and gather a number (at least 20) of same-sized boxes or cardboard bricks. Place them at the start line in two piles.

Share the teaching tie-in; then line up in two teams. On the "Go!" signal, the first person from each team picks up a box, runs to the finish line, and puts it down. He stays

there. The next person does the same thing, staying there. Each person places his box on top of the previous one, either in the shape of a tower going straight up or in a 4-3-2-1 pyramid shape. The first team to get all their boxes to the finish line and in a shape wins. For a non-competitive version, just have them play it and don't mention anything about racing or winning.

Teaching Tie-In: Today's animal pal is Bucky the Beaver. Beavers are known for their great building skills. They build lodges and dams in streams to hold back the water. Bucky is always busy building, but do you know who else is busy building? Take responses. Jesus is in heaven preparing a place for all his children. It's going to be the most wonderful place ever! We can remember that while we play our Bucky the Builder game.

Day 5

LAUNCH AND LAND

Besides start and finish lines, no equipment is needed for this game, which is played like red light, green light. Share the teaching tie-in; then have kids line up along the start line. The leader stands at the finish line with her back to the children. When the leader yells, "Launch!" the kids begin to quickly and quietly move toward her. When the leader yells, "Land!" the kids quickly stop and the leader turns around. If she sees any body movement from a child, that child goes back to the start. The first to reach the leader wins. Or, play non-competitively and just allow them to keep getting closer until they reach you.

Teaching Tie-In: Today, we're pretending to travel to the future. Do you think we'll need a rocket to get to the

new heaven and new earth that Jesus is getting ready for his children? Take responses. No! Jesus will come back and take all his children with him. It will be the most exciting thing ever! But for now, if people want to go into the clouds, they ride on an airplane or a rocket! Let's try our Launch and Land game as we pretend to be launching and landing in rockets! (*Launching* means to blast off.)

CROWN KING

Before class, make or buy little crowns, 1 per child. (A fast food restaurant may be willing to donate them.) To make, get yellow or gold bulletin board border (found online or at teacher supply stores) and staple into a circle. Add faux jewels if desired. Also, find a large stuffed animal lion or make one out of corrugated cardboard. Set up a start line and a location for the crowns. Put the lion at a distance from the crowns.

Share the teaching tie-in; then have the kids line up at the start line. One at a time, they run to the crowns, put a crown on their head, run to the lion, lay their crown on the ground around the lion, and run back to the start. If their crown falls off their head while running, they need to stop and pick it up and put it back on before continuing.

Teaching Tie-In: Today's animal pal is King the Lion. The lion is called the king of the jungle because he's the most majestic of the animals there. Did you know the Bible has a special name for Jesus that has the word *king* in it? He's called the King of kings. Of all the kings who have ever lived or will ever live, there's absolutely no king like King Jesus! He's the greatest king by far! Let's remember him as we play Crown King.

Inventors' Science and Crafts

Simple. Simple. Simple. Young children need simple crafts that are fun to touch and explore. More pre-prep needs to take place so the children are left with decorating, attaching stickers, and gluing. This hands-on fun time helps kids really connect with what they're learning.

As with all other items used with the toddlers and young preschoolers, watch carefully that items are not choking hazards and that all items are nontoxic. Use chunky crayons. Remember to put names on all crafts as children work on them.

Plan two craft times a day, but be prepared to skip one or both if the children need more rest time. Some of the crafts follow the "big kids" craft time but are simplified for this level. Some are designed only for the little ones, such as Session 2 ideas below that are about the animal pals. Toddlers will love these animal pal crafts!

Decide whether you or the craft coordinator will be in charge of preparing the craft materials. Whatever ideas you choose, have fun with them and use them to reinforce the big themes of the week.

Thematic Craft Ideas

Day 1

SESSION 1—ETERNITY CIRCLET

See the *Inventors' Science and Crafts Guide* and follow the directions for the Pre-Primary version of the Day 1 craft, but consider substituting a pipe cleaner for the elastic and fruit ring cereal for the beads as suggested in the Tip Corner.

Teaching Tie-In: What are these round shapes called? Take responses. **Yes, they're circles!** Circles don't have a beginning or an ending, and neither does God! God never had a beginning, and he will never have an ending. He was, and is, and is to come!

SESSION 2—FLUTTER'S NEST

This craft takes a little pre-prep, but it's awfully cute. Gather the following supplies for each child: 1 brown lunch bag, 1 plastic Easter egg (any color), 1 glue stick, 1 or more feathers, 1 construction paper orange beak, 2 wiggle eyes, and 2 construction paper wings. Ahead of time, cut out the two small wings and the beak for each egg. Use glue dots to attach the eyes and the beak. Also, roll down the lunch bags so they make a "nest" of sorts.

Have the kids glue on the wings and feathers and put their birds in the nests. You may want to add a little brown shredded paper inside the nest.

Teaching Tie-In: Look at our little sparrow birdie in the nest! Do you remember what our sparrow animal pal's name is? Take responses. **Yes, it's Flutter!** Isn't it amazing



to think that God knows and cares for every little bird and animal in the world, but he cares so much more for you? God loves you!

Day 2

SESSION 1—BURNING BUSH LIGHT

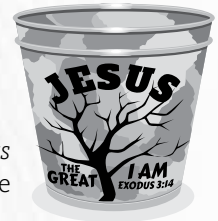
See the *Inventors' Science and Crafts Guide* and follow the directions for the Day 2 main craft.

Teaching Tie-In: Today, we talked about (will talk about) a man who saw a burning bush in the desert. Does anybody know what the man's name was? Take responses. **Yes, it was Moses!** While Moses looked at the bush that was burning but not burning up, the Lord (Jesus) spoke to him from the bush. Sometimes the Lord Jesus showed himself to people long, long ago.

SESSION 2—LOTTIE THE LAMB HEADBAND

Gather the following for each child: a piece of white bulletin board border (found at teacher supply stores or online), cotton balls, a glue stick, and two lamb ears. (A pattern for the ears can be found on the Resource DVD-ROM. Print one for each child on white card stock.) Before class, cut out the two white lamb ears for each child. Children glue the cotton balls and lamb ears onto the headband. Next, try it on for size; then take it off and have the teacher staple the circle so it fits the child's head.

Note: The back side of old bulletin board border can be used if it's white.

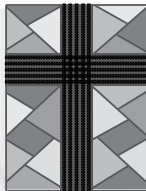


Teaching Tie-In: Look at our cute lamb headbands! Can you say “baaa”? Do so. Do you remember the name of our lamb animal pal today? Take responses. Yes, it’s Lottie the Lamb. Lottie reminds us that Jesus is also called a lamb—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Day 3

SESSION 1—CRISS-CROSS

See the *Inventors’ Science and Crafts Guide* and follow the directions for the Pre-Primary/Toddler version of the Day 3 main craft.



Teaching Tie-In: This cross is to remind us of something. Who knows what it reminds us of? Take responses. Share about Jesus and why he died on the cross.

SESSION 2—SERGEANT’S BARREL

Gather the following for each child: a paper towel tube cut in half, cross and jewel stickers, or fun foam cross and jewel shapes. Ahead of time, use glue dots to attach colorful construction paper around the paper towel tubes. Children can add the stickers and/or fun foam shapes and jewels to the outside, then enjoy putting things inside it!



Teaching Tie-In: Look at this cool barrel! It reminds me of Sergeant the St. Bernard. Sergeant wears a barrel with his rescue supplies, doesn’t he? Sergeant likes to go and rescue people if they get lost in the snow. God rescues us, too. We aren’t lost in the snow, but we are sinners in need of a Rescuer—Jesus!

Day 4

SESSION 1—TIME WARP TIME CAPSULE

See the *Inventors’ Science and Crafts Guide* and follow the directions for the Pre-Primary/Toddler version of the Day 4 main craft.

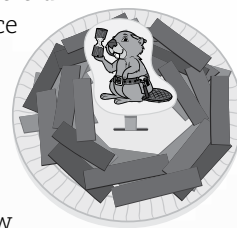
Teaching Tie-In: Today, you’re making a time capsule. You can hide it and get it out in ten years when you are in middle school! Do you think you’ll change between now and then? Take responses. How? Take responses. Do you think God will change? Take responses. No, God never changes. He’s the same yesterday, today, and forever!



SESSION 2—BUCKY’S BUILDING

Gather the following for each child: a white paper plate, brown strips of construction paper, a glue stick, crayons,

a piece of tape, a craft stick (jumbo preferably), and a Bucky pattern. (See Resource DVD-ROM for pattern.) Before class, cut out the brown strips (“logs”) of construction paper, which will be used to make the beaver’s “house.” Photocopy and cut out the Bucky template. Also, cut a slit a little below the middle of the plate through which the Bucky stick puppet comes up. The kids color the Bucky pattern and tape it to the craft stick to make the stick puppet, then glue the brown pieces around the perimeter for Bucky’s house. Let Bucky pop in and out of his house.



Teaching Tie-In: Look at our beaver here! Does anybody remember his name? Take responses. Right, it’s Bucky the Beaver. Bucky reminds us that as he prepares his house, Jesus is in heaven preparing a place for all his children.

Day 5

SESSION 1—BUILD-A-BOT PENCIL HOLDER

See the *Inventors’ Science and Crafts Guide* and follow the directions for the Pre-Primary/Toddler version of the Day 5 main craft.

Teaching Tie-In: We’re making a pencil holder today that has a face like a robot! Do you know what a robot is? Take responses. Let’s try to move like a robot. Try to do so. Robots can do lots of things. But they aren’t like people, and they can’t do everything. Only one person ever has been able to do everything and do it all perfectly, and that’s Jesus. He’s God, and he’s also man. He’s amazing!



SESSION 2—KING THE LION PUPPET

Gather the following for each child: 1 lunch bag (any color is fine, including the typical brown, but bright yellow is particularly fun), a black crayon or marker, 1 glue stick, and 1 lion pattern (see Resource DVD-ROM) on white card stock. The kids color the lion face and glue it on the bag.

Note: If you want to get fancy, cut strips of yellow and orange that the kids can glue around the face for the lion’s mane. Additionally, these can be curled with a pencil.

Teaching Tie-In: Does anybody remember the name of our lion animal pal today? Take responses. Yes, it’s King. King reminds us that Jesus is called a king. In fact, he isn’t just a king, he’s the King of all kings! There’s nobody like Jesus!



Bits and Bytes Snacks

Yum! Yum! Snack time is always a hit, no matter what the age.

With this age group, it is especially important to check with parents about allergies, as little ones will not always be able to communicate such things. Also, make sure all food is safe and in bite-sized pieces.

If you are running a morning VBS, consider providing a breakfast snack shortly after arrival (e.g., mini-muffins, half a banana, or toasted oat cereal).

For the main snack, arrange with the Snack Coordinator to bring the snack in at the appropriate time and for the appropriate numbers. Serve smaller portions of what the “big kids” are having, or serve one of the optional ideas listed below.

Keep this time calm and quiet. Pray before eating. As they eat, listen to a story or watch a quiet Christian video. Children may bring blankets or rest mats for a short rest time. They have been going all day, so this is a good time to rest. Remind the children that Jesus made them and loves them.

Thematic Snack Ideas

Every Day Supplies

- Large bowls/mixing bowls, measuring cups/spoons, stirring and mixing spoons
- Drink pitchers or coolers
- Cups and napkins, 1 of each per child

Day 1

Trinity Trio

INGREDIENTS

- Triangle-shaped regular tortilla chips
- Triangle-shaped ranch flavored tortilla chips
- Triangle-shaped blue chips or nacho cheese flavored tortilla chips



MOVING MOLECULES DRINK INGREDIENTS

- Blue-colored powdered drink mix, 1 quart for every 5 children

BASIC SUPPLIES

- Containers for Trinity Trio, 1 per child (see Tip Corner)

PRE-PREP

1. Mix the three kinds of chips in a large bowl.
2. Partially fill each container with the chips.
3. Prepare the drink according to package directions.

TEACHING TIE-IN

What shape are your Trinity Trios? Take responses. **Yes, they're triangles!** And how many sides does a triangle have? Take responses. **Right, three!** That reminds me of the Trinity, which is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are three persons but one God. Let's thank God for being the one and only God, and let's thank him for these Trinity Trios!

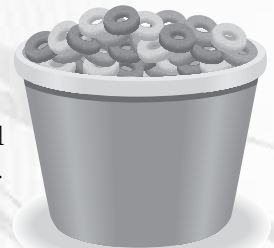
Pray for the Trinity Trio snack and eat.

TIP CORNER

- Make sure the chips are triangle-shaped.
- We used a store brand of the three different flavors of triangle-chips, but Doritos® also makes three different flavors. Blue chips are also a fun choice for one kind of triangle-shaped chip.
- We got containers online from Froyo Gelato and Ice Cream Supplies in a green pattern called Pixel, but any container or cup can work.
- Make sure to check out the Super Simple Options, the Healthy Options, and other snack possibilities in the snack guide for other great possible snack ideas.
- If you prefer individual drinks any day, substitute juice boxes, pouches, or water bottles. They're more expensive but require no prep and no cups.

Eternity Rings

Put Fruit Loops®, Apple Jacks®, or other ring-shaped cereal into individual snack baggies. You will need approximately ½ c. per child.



TEACHING TIE-IN

What shape do you see in your

Eternity Rings? Take responses.

Yes, a circle! Does a circle begin somewhere? Take responses. Does it end somewhere? Take responses. **Circles remind me of God because they don't begin or end. God doesn't begin or end, either! Let's thank God that he is with us forever, and then let's eat!**

Day 2

Sarah's Cakes

INGREDIENTS (SERVINGS VARY)

- Cinnamon muffin mix and ingredients listed on the mix
- 1 large apple
- 1 T. butter

COOL QUENCHER DRINK INGREDIENTS

- White grape juice mixed with ginger ale (equal parts of each), 1 quart for every 5 children

BASIC SUPPLIES

- Knife
- Small skillet
- Regular or mini muffin pans
- Vegetable oil spray

PRE-PREP

1. Cut the apple in small pieces. Melt the butter in a small skillet. Cook the apples slowly on low heat till tender. Cool completely.
2. Prepare the muffin mix according to package directions.
3. Mix in the cooled cooked apples.
4. Scoop the batter into greased muffin pans, filling only about $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ full.
5. Bake according to package directions and cool for a few minutes. Remove from the muffin pan.
6. Prepare the drink.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Hey, our snacks are called Sarah's Cakes. Do you know who Sarah was in the Bible? Take responses. She was the wife of a man named Abraham, and one day, they had some special visitors—the Son of God (Jesus) himself! She prepared a special meal and cakes for him. Let's thank God for these special cakes that are a little like the cakes Sarah made for Jesus, the Son of God.

TIP CORNER

- To make these look more like an olden-day cake, fill the muffin pans partially full so the muffins won't actually develop a rounded muffin top and bake over the muffin pan.
- Since the contest today is Backwards Day, you may want to serve the cakes by standing with your back to the kids and handing them from behind your back, or you can put the cakes upside down on the plate.



Shepherd's Rods

Serve pretzel rods, 1 per child. This is your shepherd's rod. You can add "milk and honey" by giving each child a small amount of vanilla yogurt with a little honey drizzled over it. They can dip their "rods" in the "milk and honey."

TEACHING TIE-IN

Today's animal pal is Lottie the Lamb. Back in Old Testament times, shepherds were out in the fields taking care of lambs. Sometimes the lambs would run away and the shepherds would use their rods (which had rounded hooks on them) to pull them back to safety.

One person we hear about in the Bible who was a shepherd was Moses. One day, when he was out caring for the lambs, he saw a bush that was *burning* but not *burning up*. The Lord God was in the bush! Let's thank God for caring for us as the Great Shepherd, and let's thank him for our Shepherd's Rods!

Day 3

Resurrection Brownies

INGREDIENTS (SERVINGS VARY, DEPENDING ON THE COOKIE CUTTER)

- Brownie mix and ingredients listed on the back of the mix (e.g., oil, eggs, and water)
- Optional: bright yellow frosting

BASIC SUPPLIES

- Spatula
- 9 x 13 baking pans
- Parchment paper and vegetable cooking spray or butter
- Cross cookie cutter(s)
- Optional: piping bag and tip for frosting

PRE-PREP

1. Prepare the brownie mix according to package directions. Pour into a baking pan lined with parchment paper and sprayed with cooking spray, or buttered. Bake according to package directions.
2. Cool completely.
3. Use the cross cookie cutter to cut out brownies. Place the cookie cutter strategically so there is little waste, flipping it right-side up, then upside down.
4. Decorate the crosses with bright yellow icing around the perimeter if desired.
5. Make drink mix according to package directions.



TEACHING TIE-IN:

What shape is our brownie? Take responses. Yes, a cross. Today, we're talking about when Jesus was born and lived on earth. What sad thing happened to him at the end of his life on earth? Take responses. Yes, he died on a cross. But the great news is that he didn't stay dead! He came back to life and is alive today! Let's thank God for that greatest news ever; then let's eat!

TIP CORNER

- The number of crosses you can get out of a 9 x 13 pan varies depending on the size of your cookie cutter.

Bread and Grape Jam

Serve bread with grape jam, either homemade (check recipes online) or store-bought. You may want to explain that back in Jesus' day, they would step on clumps of grapes to squish them up and make them into grape-flavored food and drink items.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Back when Jesus was on the earth as a man, he would have eaten a lot of bread. It was a very popular food of the time, as it still is today. Jesus was God, but he was also a man who needed to eat, just like we do. Maybe Jesus ate bread and grape jam as a boy, just like you're doing today!! Let's pray and thank God for sending his Son Jesus to earth; then let's eat our bread and jam!

Day 4

Mansion of Many Rooms

INGREDIENTS

- Lay's STAX® potato chips, a few chips per child
- Rainbow Crunch® cereal or other colorful cereal, about 1/2 c. per child
- Honeycombs® cereal, about 1/2 c. per child
- Bite-sized apple pieces, a couple per child

LAB LEMONADE DRINK INGREDIENTS

- Lemonade-flavored powdered drink mix, 1 quart for every 5 children

BASIC SUPPLIES

- Small sectioned plates, 1 per child (see Tip Corner)

PRE-PREP

1. Fill each compartment partially full with a different snack.



2. Prepare the drink according to package directions.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Today's animal pal is Bucky the Beaver. Bucky likes to prepare his home, and guess what? Someone is preparing a special place for his children—Jesus! The Bible tells us Jesus is in heaven preparing a place with many rooms for his children. It's going to be the most amazing place ever, and someday, all God's children will get to live there with King Jesus himself. Let's thank Jesus for preparing a place for us and for our Mansion of Many Rooms snack.

TIP CORNER

- Any combination of foods can be used in the Mansion of Many Rooms. The ones listed here are just suggestions. Fruits, veggies, dips, grains, soft candies—you name it!
- One of the crafts for the older kids today (Time Warp Time Capsules) used Lays STAX® containers, so we pulled the chips from them and used them in this snack and at the carnival. But if people donate empty containers or you use some other container for the time capsules, you may want to choose something besides Lay's STAX® for your Mansion of Many Rooms.
- The colorful cereal represents the jewels and beautiful colors of heaven.
- The Honeycombs® cereal with its gear shapes represents Jesus preparing a place for his children.

Bucket of Bolts

Make small "buckets" from silver paper cups. Punch holes at the top in two spots across from each other, then thread a silver pipe cleaner through the holes. See illustration. Put in gear-looking cereals, such as Honeycombs® and/or Trolls®.



TEACHING TIE-IN

Did you know Jesus' dad on earth was a carpenter who built things? Jesus would have learned how to build things, too. He wouldn't have had the same tools and nails and bolts and things like we have, but he would have had his own version from back then. And isn't it cool to know Jesus is in heaven right now preparing a beautiful place that has many rooms? Let's thank Jesus for doing that as we eat our Bucket of Bolts.

Day 5

King's Crowns

INGREDIENTS

- ½ c. vanilla ice cream per child
- Colored sprinkles, amounts vary

BASIC SUPPLIES

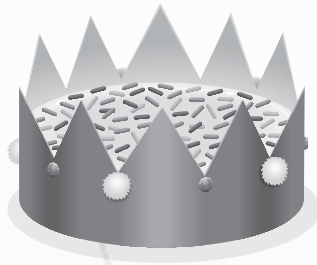
- Yellow or gold treat cups or paper cups, 1 per child
- Scissors
- Optional: jeweled stickers
- Ice cream scoop
- Plastic spoons, 1 per child
- Drink labels (Resource DVD-ROM), 1 per child

PRE-PREP

1. Cut the cups to look like crowns.
2. Optional: scoop the ice cream ahead of time if you have lots of kids or very limited time. Put it in the crown cups on trays in the freezer. Otherwise, just wait and scoop it out as you serve it.
3. Right before serving, put the sprinkles on.
4. Photocopy the drink labels and put them on the bottled water.

TEACHING TIE-IN

What do kings wear on their heads? Take responses. Right! Crowns can be fancy, with jewels, can't they?



Did you know Jesus is a king? Take responses. In fact, the Bible tells us he's the King of all kings. There's no greater king than Jesus! Someday, all God's children will live on the new earth with Jesus, the King of all kings. Let's praise God for being the King of kings and thank him for this King's Crown treat!

TIP CORNER

- We got our treat cups online from Froyo Gelato Supplies.

Rocket Time

Cut a banana in half vertically and horizontally so it ends up in four pieces. (Each banana will make enough for four children.) Place each piece on a separate, small paper plate. Cut canned pineapple into triangle shapes to make fins on the sides and boosters on the bottom.



TEACHING TIE-IN

Look at our little rockets! Do you think it would be cool to fly in a rocket way up into the heavens? Well, someday, anyone who is God's child won't need a rocket to get to the new heaven and new earth. We'll be taken there and will live forever with Jesus. It's going to be wonderful! Let's thank God for this future time we have to look forward to. Then we'll eat our rockets.

DAY 1 DESTINATION:

Creation

TIME TRACKER

Jesus Before and at Creation
(Eternity Past to c. 4000 BC)

LESSON FOCUS

Jesus *always has been, always will be* with us.

HIGH VOLTAGE VERSE

“All things were created through him and for him.” Colossians 1:16

BIBLE PASSAGE

Genesis 1

TODAY'S C

Creation

ANIMAL PAL

Flutter the Sparrow



Today's Exploration Stations

- Discovery Center: Play Clay Critters
- Touch Table: Shaping Up
- Dramatic Play: Time Travel
- Coloring Corner: Colossians 1:16

Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Lesson Time
 - Part 1: Time Tracker Stop 1—Creation
 - Part 2: Back to the Beginning
 - Part 3: Puppet Pal—Always and Forever
- Song Time
 - Song 1: “The Trinity”
 - Song 2: “What is Something that God Made”
- Memory Verse/Review Time
 - Part 1: High Voltage Verses
 - Part 2: Go and Do
 - Optional: Playacting Review

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read Genesis 1 and John 1 several times.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials.
- For more information on the Son of God, the Trinity, and creation, visit answersvbs.com/tlfaq.
- Pray.

Lesson Materials

FROM TEACHER RESOURCE KIT

- Theme Verse poster
- Day 1 Memory Verse poster
- Day 1 Animal Pal poster
- Time Tracker poster
- Day 1 Sim Station posters
- Day 1 Timeline posters

FROM RESOURCE DVD-ROM

- Exploration Station Names signs
- Day 1 Memory Verse coloring sheet (Expl. Station)
- Sim Station sound effect (and player)
- Days of Creation pictures
- 2 copies of today's puppet script
- Simple songs: “The Trinity” and “What is Something that God Made” (also available on a separate CD, 11-6-141)

OTHER MATERIALS

- Exploration Station supplies (see back cover)
- Bible or children's Bible
- Costumes for scientists (teachers)
- Optional: flashlight (for daily time simulation)
- Cover for Sim Station posters
- Clock and watch
- Boy or girl puppet (in costume) and puppet stage
- Clipboard
- Mounting putty or tape
- Memory Verse/Review Time section supplies
- Memory Verse music CD and player

STUDENT EXTRAS

- Student guides (11-6-073, 11-6-134), 1 per child
- Time Traveler Guides (11-6-090, 11-6-138), 1 per child
- Stamp for Time Traveler Guides (11-6-093)
- Flutter bookmarks (11-6-078, 11-6-140), 1 per child

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."

Exploration Stations

Discovery Center: Play Clay Critters

MATERIALS

- Play dough
- Animal cookie cutters
- Small plastic animals
- Plastic or fake leaves, pinecones, safe nature items

PRE-PREP

Make or buy play dough (see recipe on the next page) and gather the other supplies.

DIRECTIONS

The time travelers use the cookie cutters to make animals. They can also press the small plastic animals and the nature items into the play dough to make impressions.

Note: You may want to keep this up all week. Play dough is always a hit. See suggestions in the “Additional Exploration Station Ideas” section.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Did you know there was a time when the earth wasn't there? This was before time began. But when God began creating the universe, he created time, too! Jesus made all the plants and animals and stars and planets and people! That's our C word of the day—*creation*! Let's say it together. Do so. God created all things during Creation Week!

Touch Table: Shaping Up

MATERIALS

- Under-the-bed storage container, small wading pool, or “official” touch table
- Tarp or plastic tablecloth
- Play sand, available from hardware stores (make sure it's marked play sand, not regular sand)
- Cookie cutter shapes (circles and triangles, in particular)
- Wet wipes for cleanup

PRE-PREP

Cover the floor under the touch table with a tarp or plastic tablecloth. This will be used all week. Put the play sand and the cookie cutter shapes in the table.

DIRECTIONS

The time travelers enjoy using the cookie cutters to make shapes in the sand.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Can you find a circle? Take responses. Circles don't have a beginning or ending. God never started, and he will never end!

Can you find a triangle? Take responses. Let's see if we can figure out how many sides are on the triangle. This triangle can remind us of God because there are three persons who make up one God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Dramatic Play: Time Travel

MATERIALS

- Time Warp panels (see Decorating Decisions)
- Time machine with control panel (see Decorating Decisions)
- Light brown roll paper or light brown plastic tablecloths (see Decorating Decisions)
- Stuffed or rubber animals, fake trees and plants

PRE-PREP

- Put up the time machine and the Time Warp panels as suggested in the Decorating Decisions. These will be used all week.
- Also, put up the light brown backdrop, which will be used all week, but can have a few different things added in front of it each day to make it look like that day's time period. For example, you can add fake trees and plants, and stuffed animals to suggest the Garden of Eden today.

The props listed each day can be borrowed, made, or bought from thrift stores, garage sales, or online companies like Oriental Trading Company or Rhode Island Novelties.

DIRECTIONS

Pretend to be time travelers heading back to the beginning of time at the Garden of Eden.

TEACHING TIE-IN

At the beginning of time, God created everything. His Son (later called Jesus) was creating with him. They made a beautiful place called the Garden of Eden, and they put plants and animals and the first two people there. Can you think of something God made on one of the days of creation?

You may want to go over what was made on each day.

Coloring Corner: Colossians 1:16

MATERIALS

- Time Tunnel supplies (see Decorating Decisions)
- Day 1 Memory Verse coloring sheet (Resource DVD-ROM)
- Markers or crayons (possibly glow-in-the-dark or neon)

- ❑ Optional for marker and crayon storage: glow-in-the-dark pails, or pails with glow-in-the-dark stars on them
- ❑ Optional: Additional supplies to glue on, glue sticks, and stickers

PRE-PREP

Make or gather the decorating supplies and set them up. These will be used all week. Photocopy the coloring sheet, 1 per child. Gather additional supplies to glue on if desired, such as cotton balls for “clouds” or blue cellophane pieces for “sky.”

DIRECTIONS

Color the sheet. Add additional supplies if desired.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Practice saying the memory verse on the sheet. Discuss its meaning.

Additional Exploration Station Ideas

- ❑ **Tinker Time**—Gather child-safe “creating” supplies with which kids can make “inventions.” Possible items include boxes of all sizes and shapes, lids and caps, clean yogurt cups, pipe cleaners, mini plastic or condiment cups, craft sticks. Include child-safe glue, paper, child-safe scissors, and washable markers. Keep this available all week for open-ended creating. It’s good to remind kids that we can create with supplies but only God can create from nothing. He’s the Master Inventor. (You may also want to add a child play board with locks, zippers, etc. or a play work bench with play tools.)
- ❑ **Texture Trays**—Texture trays are a big hit. Provide various textures *on* which and *in* which they can trace the name “Jesus.” Possible textures include shaving cream or hair gel in zippered baggies that are duct-taped shut (we colored the hair gel bright green), burlap, trays of salt, thick fleece, magic slates, and chalkboards and chalk. Supervise carefully and make sure they know not to put their hands in their mouths. You may want to put out different textures on different days. Try tracing other names of Jesus,

such as Son, Christ, God, and Lord. It is helpful to have these names of Jesus written on paper for them to see. Have wipes available for clean up.

- ❑ **Marble Runs**—Search online for “Homemade Marble Runs.” Make several different kinds and let the kids have fun playing with them. One test church made handheld mazes with cardboard tubes taped into boxes and spray-painted black. They added star stickers and used table tennis balls to run through the maze.
- ❑ **Nature Nook**—Gather nature items that Jesus has created. If fragile, place in clear, plastic storage containers or zippered baggies. Monitor carefully and remind the children of the Lord’s wonderful creations.
- ❑ **Book Nook**—Make a cozy reading spot. Add children’s picture Bibles and books with individual Bible accounts of Jesus in them. You may also want to include some children’s books about various time periods from the past, such as life in Ancient Rome or during the Middle Ages.
- ❑ **Play Dough**—The Play Clay Critters station is suggested for the Discovery Center on the first day. It uses play dough, animal cookie cutters, and things to press into the play dough. Play dough is also used on the third day with the Christmas Creations center. But you may want to offer it all week, adding additional thematic supplies on the other days, such as letter cookie cutters to spell the name of Jesus on Day 2, encouragement to make a “house” out of their play dough on Day 4, and large, play jewels to press into it on Day 5.

How to Make Play Dough


2 c. flour	4 t. cream of tartar
½ c. salt	2 t. oil
2 c. warm water	Food coloring


Mix the first five ingredients in a saucepan, blending well. Stir over low to medium heat until the dough is formed and is no longer sticky. Remove from the pan, add the food coloring, and knead until smooth. After it has cooled, store in an airtight container.

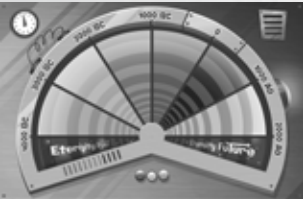
- Bible or children's Bible
 - Costumes for scientists (teachers)
 - Mounting putty or tape (for hanging posters)
 - Clock and watch
 - Sim Station sound effect (Resource DVD-ROM) and player
 - Optional: flashlight (for daily time simulation)
- From Teacher Resource Kit:
- Time Tracker poster
 - Day 1 Sim Station posters (and cover)
 - Day 1 Timeline posters, cut apart

PRE-PREP

1. Prepare your costumes. (See text.)
2. Prepare and mount the Time Tracker poster (see Decorating Decisions), then point the Time Tracker arrow to 4000 BC.
3. Mount and cover the Sim Station posters on the set.
4. Cue the Sim Station sound effect.

 Be familiar with the lesson, but don't memorize it. Place it on a clipboard to use as a reference. Decorate the back of your clipboard (the side the kids will see as you hold it) with science and/or clock stickers.

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



- Days of Creation pictures (Resource DVD-ROM)
- Day 1 Animal Pal poster (Teacher Resource Kit)

PRE-PREP

1. Photocopy the Days of Creation pictures.

Lesson Time

Part 1: Time Tracker Stop 1—Creation (5 minutes)

Teacher One: Hi, time travelers! Welcome to *Time Lab!* My name is ____ (Dr. Slime, Professor Time, or whatever name you choose. Dr. Slime could have some slime for a prop [see Craft Guide for a simple recipe], and Professor Time could wear an armful of watches.)

Teacher Two: And I'm ____ (name of your choice). We're glad you're here! Are you ready for a super fun time?

Teacher One: Show a clock. Does anybody know what this is called? Take answers. What does it do? Take answers. Let's pretend our arms are the hands of a clock going around. Do so.

Teacher Two: Show a watch. How about this? Take answers. What does it do? Take answers.

Teacher One: Did you know there used to be a time when there weren't any clocks or watches? That's because there wasn't such a thing as time.

Teacher Two: There wasn't any earth with trees and animals and people either. Before time began, there was only God! He's been around forever!

Teacher One: Show the Day 1 Trinity Timeline poster. Right! God has been here forever! And God has a Son who is also God and his name is Jesus. He's been around forever, too. And there's a third member who is God, and his name is the Holy Spirit, and he's been around forever, too. They are three, but they make up one God. You may want to sing "The Trinity" song here. See page 29.



Teacher Two: God decided to make time. Let's pretend to travel back in time in our time machine to the beginning of time!

Teacher One: Okay, let's first pretend to put on our seat belts. Do so. Now let's put on our goggles in case it's windy. Do so. Is everyone strapped in and ready to go? Take responses. Okay, let's take off!

There are a couple ways to do your "time travel" effect each day. A simple way is to just flick the lights (or turn off the lights and use a flashlight that you shine around) while you tell the kids to stomp their feet and make time machine noises (whatever their imaginations come up with).

A more involved way is to play the Sim Station sound effect provided and turn on the rope lighting or Christmas lights that are around your screen. (See Decorating Decisions for specifics.)

Now have them close their eyes and pretend to be heading back in time. (They can continue making time machine noises if doing so.) Remove the cover to reveal the Sim Station scene on the simulator screen. Have them open their eyes and show them the date on the Time Tracker (4000 BC). Tell them to imagine they're back at the beginning of time in the Garden of Eden.

Part 2: Back to the Beginning (5 minutes)

Teacher One: Let's see what the Bible says happened at the beginning of time! Open to Genesis 1:1 and read the verse. Have them say it with you. Stand up and do motions together, pointing up for "heavens" and making a circle for "earth."

Teacher Two: We have a special word today that starts with a C. Let's make a C in the air with our finger. Do so. Our C word is *creation*. Let's say that together. Do so. God made, or created, everything in six days. Let's count to six together using our fingers.

Do so. Can you help me figure out what God made on each day of that very first week back at the beginning of time?

Teacher One: Let's shout out the number 1 as we jump up 1 time. Do so, then have them freeze for a moment while you hold up Days of Creation picture 1. **On Day 1, Jesus made light and dark. Cover your eyes for dark. Do so. Now open them to see light. Do so.**

Teacher Two: Let's shout out the number 2 and jump 2 times. Do so, then have them freeze for a moment while you hold up Days of Creation picture 2. **On Day 2, God made the seas. Pretend you're on a wavy ocean. Do so.**

Teacher One: Let's shout out the number 3 and jump 3 times. Do so, then have them freeze for a moment while you hold up Days of Creation picture 3. **On Day 3, Jesus made the plants. Pretend you're smelling a pretty flower. Do so.**

Teacher Two: Let's shout out the number 4 and jump 4 times. Do so, then have them freeze for a moment while you hold up Days of Creation picture 4. **On Day 4, God made the sun, moon, and stars. Let's look up and pretend to see the stars. Do so.**

Teacher One: Let's shout out the number 5 and jump 5 times. Do so, then have them freeze for a moment while you hold up Days of Creation picture 5. **On Day 5, God made the fish and birds and flying creatures. Let's pretend we're fish swimming around. Now let's pretend we're birds flying around. Do so.**

Teacher Two: Let's shout out the number 6 and jump 6 times. Do so, then have them freeze for a moment while you hold up Days of Creation picture 6. **On Day 6, God made all the kinds of land animals. Let's pretend we're an animal that lives on the land, like a cow or a kangaroo. Do so. After God made the land animals, he made the first two people, Adam and Eve. Now God was finished creating. Do you remember our C word? Take responses. Right, it's *creation*! God created everything that very first week.**

Teacher One: Let's shout out the number 7 and jump 7 times. Do so, then have them freeze for a few seconds while you hold up Days of Creation picture 7. **On Day 7, God rested. Let's sit down and rest. Do so.**

Teacher One: Show the Day 1 Timeline poster—leaf. And it's cool to think that God knows every little detail of everything he ever created—every bug and every leaf and every animal and every person in the whole world, including you. In fact, the Bible tells us God even knows every bird, like Flutter the sparrow here. Show Day 1 Animal Pal poster. It helps to hold this up or hang it up away from the puppet stage so while Teacher One is showing it, Teacher Two can get behind the puppet stage.

And it's wonderful to realize that if God cares about every tiny little bird he created, he cares so, so much more about you. God created you, God loves you, and God will never leave you. Isn't that great news? Let's stand up and cheer! Do so. Now let's meet our Puppet Pal and talk more about it!

Part 3: Puppet Pal—Always and Forever (5 minutes)

Each day, the puppet pal will be used to teach or reinforce the lesson. It's always a favorite, so try to include it even if you have to cut something else.

If you don't have a teaching assistant or co-teacher, enlist someone (a time keeper or other volunteer) ahead of time to work the puppet each day. If you're alone, have the puppet come up from behind a suitcase with the lid flipped up, or just stand and work the puppet. See *Decorating Decisions* for more info about a 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,

⌚ For young toddlers, delete the additional actions such as covering your eyes for dark or pretending you're on a wavy ocean. To keep it moving, just have them shout the number and jump that number of times, then tell them what God created.



- Boy or girl puppet (in costume) and puppet stage
- 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. Dress the puppet in a mini VBS T-shirt and/or a little lab coat with science and time symbols. You may want to have mini goggles and a little watch as well.
3. One teacher with the clipboard should be in front of the puppet stage and one should be behind it, ready to work the puppet.

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.

Your puppet should come out of the portal on the set. When 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’s see if we can get our Puppet Pal, Skye, to come out. On the count of 3, let’s all call to him (her). Ready? 1, 2, 3—Skye!

Puppet: Come out somewhat out of breath and rushed, but full of excitement and energy. Hey, everybody! I’m all packed for my trip.

Teacher: Where are you going?

Puppet: Well, I want to go on an adventure back in time to when Jesus, the Son of God, began.

Teacher: Ummm . . . there’s a little problem with that.

Puppet: What?

Teacher: Boys and girls, Skye said he wants to go back in time to when Jesus, the Son of God started. Does the Son of God have a beginning? Take responses. The Son of God never started. He’s always been.

Puppet: But wait! You’re saying the Son of God didn’t begin? That’s impossible! We all have a beginning.

Teacher: It’s true that *people* have beginnings. But God didn’t begin. He always has been and always will be. When you don’t have a beginning or an ending, it’s called being eternal.

Puppet: Eternal. So because he doesn’t begin or end, God is eternal?

Teacher: Yep! And the Bible says he will never leave you. If you hide under your bed, in your closet, or in the basement, he’s still with you. If you travel to the farthest corner of the universe, God is still with you. Anywhere you go, Jesus is with you. He always is!

Puppet: Look all around, up and down. But I don’t see him here. Where is he? Jesus! Jesus!

Teacher: We can’t see him, but he’s here. It’s kind of like air. Take a deep breath, everyone. Do so.

Puppet: Act like you’re holding it for a really long time, then squeak out: Can I let it out yet?

Teacher: Okay, let it out.

Puppet: Dramatically let it out and gasp for breath. Whew!

Teacher: Just like we know the air is there even though we can’t see it, we also know God is here even though we can’t see him. We can’t see Jesus standing here as a person right now, but he’s still here—he’s just invisible. This week, we’ll be traveling to time periods when people actually *did* see Jesus as a man! And we’ll talk about how someday, we’ll get to actually see Jesus, too! Won’t that be incredible?

Puppet: It sure will! I can’t wait to hear more as we travel through time this week, but I’ve got to go right now.

Teacher: Okay! Just remember, Jesus always has been and always will be. He’s never going away. Let’s wave good-bye to Skye, everyone. Do so.

Song Time

Song 1: "The Trinity"

Here's a fun song to incorporate into any part of your day. Sing this one to the tune of "Are You Sleeping?"

God the Father, God the Father
(Point index finger up to heaven.)

God the Son, God the Son
(Point two fingers up to heaven.)

God the Holy Spirit, God the Holy Spirit
(Add a third finger.)

Three in one, three in one
(Keep all three fingers up, then put just index finger up on the word "one.")

Song 2: "What is Something that God Made"

Sing this one to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes." Remind them that our C word today is *creation* because God created everything.

What is something that God made, that God made (Fling your arms out wide.)

What is something that God made, that God made (Fling your arms out wide.)

Shout it out, don't be afraid (Cup hands around mouth.)

What is something that God made, that God made (Fling your arms out wide.)

Continue on, changing the last line every time and letting the kids name different things God created.

Memory Verse/Review Time

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 Flutter bookmarks, one per child, or have the leaders do so at the end of the day. Put a stamp in the Time Traveler Guides (or do so at snack time), and/or review the student guides.

Part 1: High Voltage Verses

Today's Verse: "All things were created through him and for him." Colossians 1:16

Explain the following::the *him* this verse is talking about is Jesus, who is God the Son.

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 challenge.

Challenge: Find something that is a circle, like a hula hoop, a pool ring, or a jewelry ring. Circles have no beginning and no ending, like the Son of God. As you say today's verse, toss your circle up and try to catch it. Do this over and over and see how many times you can toss it without dropping it. Don't forget to say your verse as you toss your circle.

Tomorrow's Verse: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8

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.

- Simple songs (Resource DVD-ROM) and player

PRE-REP

1. Cue your player with today's simple songs.

🕒 Simple sing-along versions of the songs listed here are available on the Resource DVD-ROM. Download them to an MP3 player and use them as accompaniment to your song time. They are also available for purchase on a CD (11-6-141).

🕒 You may want to use all the songs suggested this week (found at the end of each day's lesson), or just repeat the same one or two all week long. There are lots of options!

- Memory Verse music CD and player
- Student guides and supplies for Part 1 and Part 2
- Time Traveler Guides, 1 per child
- Stamp for Time Traveler Guides
- Flutter bookmarks, 1 per child
- From Teacher Resource Kit:
 - Day 1 Memory Verse poster
 - Theme Verse poster



🕒 You may want to make up motions to the key words of the verse every day.

🕒 A faster option to learn the verse that can be done any day is to say it together twice using hand motions, then a third time using just the hand motions but not saying it out loud, then vice versa.

🕒 The student guides are great to send home as a fun review and important application of the day's lesson. The front is the review, and the back mirrors Part 1 and Part 2 of this section.



⌚ One test church teaching team ended each day having the kids do the time machine again (lights flashing, foot stomping, etc.), telling them it was time to leave the Garden of Eden and go back to VBS time.

⌚ End each day's Simulation Station Lesson with prayer!

Part 2: Go and Do

- Go on a treasure hunt outside to see how many plants and animals you can find. Jesus, the Son of God, created all of them!
- Talk to God (that's prayer!) and thank him for his Son, Jesus, and for the Bible that teaches us about Jesus.
- Ask your parent or guardian if he knows anything about when he was born. Isn't it amazing to think God never started but always has been?
- With an adult, check answersvs.com/tlkids for more fun information!

Ask yourself this question: Do I know someone who needs to hear about this wonderful Creator?

Optional: Playacting Review

Today, if you have time, the time travelers can pretend to be various animal kinds that God created (e.g., a bear, a cat, a dog).