



*Checkpoint*  
**Assembly**  
LEADER GUIDE

# ASSEMBLY GUIDE

## Course Overview

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
<i>Title</i>	Ready, Set, Go: Before Babel	Hitting a Roadblock: At Babel	One Race, Many Nations: After Babel	One Way—Jesus: Babel and the Gospel	Green Light—GO: Why Babel Matters Today
<i>Continent</i>	South America	Asia	Africa	Europe	North America
<i>Refueling Station Lesson Focus</i>	As the race starts, we explore the beginning of the human race and why nobody has run a perfect race.	On this leg of the race, we stop at the tower of Babel and check out the important and loving roadblock God provided there.	On leg three, we see how the human race developed into people groups with different languages, cultures, and physical features, but how we are still one race.	On our fourth leg, we discover the need to yield our lives to God as he reaches out to all nations, tribes, and peoples with his love.	On this final leg, we learn that because God loves all people groups, we ought to treat others with love and respect, not prejudice and judgment.
<i>Bible Passages</i>	Racing Through Genesis Genesis 1–11	The Tower of Babel Genesis 11:1–9	The Table of Nations Genesis 10 Psalm 139 Acts 17:26	The Gospel and a Glimpse of Heaven Revelation 7:9–10	The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25–37
<i>Mile Marker Memory Verses</i>	For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23	Its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth. Genesis 11:9	And he made from one man every nation. Acts 17:26	The Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 1 John 4:14	If God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11
<i>Apologetics Focus</i>	Sin cycle How the world was divided into continents	Ziggurats Languages	One blood, one race I've got DNA—why I look like I do	God provides just one way to be saved	Fighting prejudice and racism
<i>Animal Pals</i>	Bo the Anaconda	Jamal the Camel	Pup Patrol	Agape and Phileo the Polish Mute Swans	Racer the Roadrunner
<i>World-class Science</i>	Light It Up! Let It Rain	Flying High Full of Hot Air	DNA Spot the Color	Polishing Pennies Rainbow Float	Go! All Bandaged Up
<i>World-class Crafts</i>	Table Top Fútbol Tie Snake	Mini Globe Let's Face It	Mud Hut Missions Bank Pipe Cleaner People	Mosaic Cross Backpack Zipper Pull	Kindness Cards Traveler's Tic-Tac-Toe
<i>Globe-trotting Games</i>	South American Games	Asian Games	African Games	European Games	North American Games
<i>Runway Café</i>	Circles and Salsa Brazilian Brigadeiros	Tower Treats Pita Chips and Dip	Shades of Cake Chapatis	Leaning Tower of Chees-a English Scones	Global Cheese Balls Big Apple Mini Pies
<i>Cool Contests</i>	Guessing Game	Team Cheers	Dress-Up Day	Bible Verse Challenge	Mission Money Mania



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### *Assembly Guide*

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# Handy Helps

## On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!

A race. But not just any race. A race filled with fun clues to find. A race loaded with interesting challenges to attempt. A race around the world that's a global scavenger hunt like you've never seen.

At the same time, it's about another race. A race that began at the garden of Eden and continues until this day. A race made up of all people from all time. What race? The human race.

As we move from continent to continent in *The Incredible Race* from Answers VBS, we'll make stops at various times before, at, and after the hugely important tower of Babel incident and see how it matters greatly today.

**Day 1 Before Babel**—As the race starts, we explore the beginning of the human race and why nobody has run a perfect race through life.

**Day 2 At Babel**—On this leg of the race, we stop at the tower of Babel and check out the important and loving roadblock God provided there.

**Day 3 After Babel**—On leg three, we see how the human race developed into people groups with different languages, cultures, and physical features, but how we are still one race.

**Day 4 Babel and the Gospel**—On our fourth leg, we discover the need to yield our lives to God as he reaches out to all nations, tribes, and peoples with his love.

**Day 5 Why Babel Matters Today**—On the final leg, we learn from Babel that because God loves us, we also ought to treat others with love and respect, not prejudice and judgment.

From the minute our racers arrive at *The Incredible Race*, they'll find fun waiting to happen! The day begins at the **Checkpoint Assembly**, a supercharged opening complete with entertaining welcomes, rockin' songs, a mission moment, and prayer. Then we're off to four fun rotation sites:

**Refueling Station**, the teaching time. Here, as racers receive and accept challenges, they'll discover the tower of Babel account isn't just ancient history, but incredibly important to how we live today.

**Runway Café**, the snack spot. Racers will enjoy global goodies at this yummy spot while completing food-related challenges.

**Globe-trotting Games**, the recreation location. At this spot, racers attempt fun physical challenges of international proportions.

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

After finishing the day's rotations, everyone heads back to the **Checkpoint 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 a team on *The Incredible Race* that is flying to the next race location, only to crash in the jungles of Central America at an ancient step pyramid (zigurat). Many funny adventures and epic lessons occur at this unexpected roadblock.

So grab your gear and get ready for the race of a lifetime as we embark on *The Incredible Race*. On your mark, get set, go!

### Our Goal

We are so thankful for how God has chosen to use the Answers VBS programs over the past years! 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 with off-the-chart, irresistible fun. In a day and age when content sometimes suffers, it's critically important to us not to sacrifice rich content. But it's also crucial that the most exciting book in the world not come across as boring or irrelevant. We want to reflect our creative, inspiring, joy-giving God who made laughter and fun!

So why do we do it? We want kids around the world to hear about and personally meet our awesome God and to understand how they can receive eternal life through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. We believe VBS is a great way to introduce them to God, as it is one of the biggest outreaches of the year for most churches.

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

## Your Role

Your role as music coordinator, mission coordinator, and/or drama director is outlined in the following pages. This is *your* guide. Read it carefully and prayerfully, using our suggestions combined with the ideas the Holy Spirit brings to your mind. Then get ready! God is about to use you and your church to impact lives!

### ***Music Coordinator***

- Learn all music and motions for the songs (see the *Ready, Set, Sing!* DVD for help)
- Help plan and run the daily assemblies, including standing up front and enthusiastically leading the music
- Train others to learn songs and motions so they can also help lead music
- Help plan and run the closing program

### ***Mission Coordinator***

- Choose a mission project or projects for all ages
- Arrange all details related to presenting the mission project during VBS week

- Act as the presenter of the mission information the week of VBS
- Deliver the mission collection to the appropriate parties after VBS is over

### ***Drama Director***

- Choose actors for the drama and prepare folders for each with copies of the scripts
- Organize a rehearsal schedule
- Run the drama practices and oversee all aspects of the production (lighting, sound, costumes, props, etc.)
- Provide direction for the design of the set
- Oversee the production of the dramas during the week of VBS
- Help plan and run the closing program

# Frequently Asked Questions

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

## 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.

**Racers:** The kids at VBS. Racers are put in teams named after countries (e.g., Team Brazil, Team Kenya, Team Japan, Team Germany).

**Team Leaders:** Adults who guide the racers from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required for this position.

**Trainers:** Teachers at the Refueling Station lesson time.

**Refueling Station:** Rotation site where Bible and apologetics teaching occurs.

**Checkpoint Assembly:** Spot where everyone joins together for the opening and closing assemblies.

**World-class Science and Crafts:** Rotation site where kids make crafts, perform science experiments, sing songs, learn memory verses, and explore missions around the world.

**Runway Café:** Indoor or outdoor site where global goodies are served.

**Globe-trotting Games:** Indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred) for international games to be played.

**Mile Marker Memory 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.

## NOTES

[illegible]

# Assemblies

## Daily Assemblies

One of the most exciting parts of *The Incredible Race* is the opening and closing assembly time. Each day begins and ends with an assembly of all classes and includes an array of activities. (See below.) The assemblies can be led by the VBS director, children's pastor, music coordinator, drama director, a volunteer, or a combination of these.

### Assembly Activities

#### Welcome

Welcoming everyone to VBS is the first thing we do at *The Incredible Race*. And since our fun theme involves a race with lots of challenges, we start each day with a video challenge for the racers to guess the continent we are traveling to that day.

#### Ready, Set, Sing!

Kids love to sing, and kids love song motions. That's why we do both at *The Incredible Race*. The *Ready, Set, Sing!* CD features fun songs that reinforce the spiritual theme. See the Music Leader Set (either contemporary or traditional) that is included with a Super Starter Kit for a Music CD (stereo, split-track, instrumental-only versions of each song), Hand Motions DVD, and DVD-ROM (featuring lyric videos, HD versions of the hand motions videos, presentation images, and PDFs of the song lyrics). Sheet music, student CDs, and songbooks are also available.

Additionally, included in the Super Starter Kit is a Memory Verse Songs Leader Set. This features each of the main memory verses set to fun, upbeat music by Seeds Family Worship (contemporary) or Majesty Music (traditional). Singing Scripture is an easy and exciting way to encourage your kids to memorize their Bible verses!

#### Mission Moment

During the opening assembly, the VBS mission project is highlighted. Collecting money for *Hope Explorers* in partnership with Children's Hunger Fund allows the children to contribute to the physical needs of children around the world, giving them an opportunity to hear the gospel. See the Mission Moment section for more information and the Digital Resources for videos and printable handouts.

An expanded version of this section is also featured in the science and craft guide. Some churches may want to have a separate mission time and only announce the total

collected during the assembly time. Be sure to check with your director to find out when this will be done.

#### Creature Feature

During the closing assembly (or opening assembly if that works better for you), kids learn about each day's animal pal. See the Creature Feature section for information.

#### Drama

Because each day's drama segment is part of a continuing week-long story, it is one of the most anticipated events of VBS. The dramas are presented in the closing assembly each day. For information about the dramas, including set design and construction and each day's script, see the Drama section.

As an alternative, shorter skits for each day using fewer people are also offered on the Digital Resources, or a video version of the drama can be purchased and played.

#### Cool Contests

Not only do kids love to sing, but also they love a challenge. That's why *The Incredible Race* has contests each day to keep excitement running high. This is a key element of this year's race-themed VBS. Contest results are presented daily during the closing assembly. See the Cool Contests section for more information.

#### Announcements

Announcements can be made toward the end of each opening and closing assembly and should include information about the next day's contests and a reminder to bring mission money.

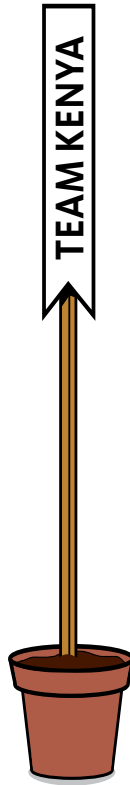
#### Prayer

At the end of the opening assembly, just before everyone is dismissed, ask for God's protection and blessing on your day. At the end of the closing assembly, thank God for a good day at VBS.



### *Tip Corner*

- Use class signs to identify where each class should sit. Sign posts can be made and reused each year.
- Play VBS music before and after each assembly to enhance the atmosphere.
- In preparation for VBS, have some (or all) of your leaders learn the song motions.
- To add variety, wear something thematic, or bring out an interesting international musical instrument as you lead a song.



### *Daily Assembly Scripts*

For your assembly leader, a detailed program for each assembly, including all scripted segments, is provided beginning on page 15. These include the welcomes, Mission Moments, songs, and Creature Features. These scripts are also available on the Digital Resources.

### *Order of Program Forms*

So that your assembly leader and production crew are on the same page, blank, reproducible “order of program” forms are provided for the opening and closing assemblies on the Digital Resources. Before each assembly, insert the songs of your choice and your notes. Then photocopy the completed form and distribute to your production crew.

# Ready, Set, Sing!

Kids love to sing, and kids love song motions. That's why we do both at *The Incredible Race*. *Ready, Set, Sing!* features fun songs that reinforce the spiritual theme. We have provided a variety of songs to go along with each day's teaching; however, feel free to choose the songs that work best for your children. You can use all of the songs throughout the week or just choose a few to repeat every day so the kids can learn them. You may also want to begin teaching the songs to your children a few weeks before VBS begins.

Use your Sunday school, children's church, or Wednesday evening programs to familiarize them with the VBS music. Hand out CDs of the music or encourage parents to download the audio files from [answersbookstore.com](http://answersbookstore.com) and play them for the children in the car and at home.

Note: Original purchasers of these music products (CDs, DVDs, and songbooks) are given limited permission to copy up to 25% of the total number of copies needed.

## Music Leader Set

Included in each Super Starter Kit is a Music Leader Set, either contemporary (11-7-059) or traditional (11-7-060; music produced by Majesty Music). These sets are also available for purchase separately. The Music Leader Set features a Leader Music CD, Music Resource DVD-ROM, and Leader DVD.

### Leader Music CD

This music CD features stereo, split-track, and instrumental-only versions of the songs.

### Contemporary Songs

Theme Song: "The Incredible Race" (2:25)  
Day 1 Song: "Gonna Lift You Up" (2:16)  
Day 2 Song: "Build Your Life" (2:22)  
Day 3 Song: "All Across the World" (2:12)  
Day 4 Song: "Incredible Grace" (3:13)  
Day 5 Song: "LOVE" (2:23)  
Any Day Song: "Jesus Saves" (3:05)  
Any Day Song: "We're One Blood" (2:35)

### Traditional Songs

Theme Song: "The Incredible Race" (2:31)  
Day 1 Song: "God Made All" (2:12)  
Day 2 Song: "Babel, Babel, Babel" (1:56)



Day 3 Song: "I Need a Savior" (1:57)  
Day 4 Song: "Only One" (2:50)  
Day 5 Song: "LOVE" (1:58)  
Any Day Song: "Jesus Saves" (2:11)

### Music Resource DVD-ROM

This DVD-ROM features song lyric videos, hand motions videos, presentation images of the songs, and a document of the lyrics.

### Leader DVD

This DVD features song lyric videos and hand motion videos. The contemporary DVD features bonus instructional videos of the motions for each song. Leaders can use these videos to learn the motions themselves before leading the kids at VBS.



## Additional Music Aids



### Sheet Music

The Super Starter Kit includes a sheet music book for your chosen music track. This book includes the lyrics and the accompaniment for each song. This book can also be purchased separately. (Contemporary—11-7-065; Traditional—11-7-066)

### Student CDs

Audio CDs of the full-track songs are sold in packs of 10. These can be distributed with the songbooks to the children and their parents before or during VBS to help with learning the songs. They make great rewards and souvenirs of VBS, as well. The memory verse and the theme songs are together on one student CD! (Contemporary—11-7-061; Traditional—11-7-062)

### Songbook

A sample songbook is also included in the Super Starter Kit. These are for sale in packs of 10 and can be distributed to the children or parents before or during VBS to help with learning the lyrics to the songs. (Contemporary—11-7-067; Traditional—11-7-068)



### Student Hand Motion DVDs

The hand motions DVD is available for purchase individually. These DVDs can be distributed to children who would like to take them home to watch long after VBS is over. (Contemporary—11-7-055; Traditional—11-7-142)

### Digital Downloads

Lead sheets, chord charts, and audio files of each contemporary music song are available to purchase and download from [answersbookstore.com](http://answersbookstore.com). Hand motions videos and song lyric videos are also available to purchase and download.

## Memory Verse Songs



Encourage your kids to learn their memory verses the easy way—by singing them! We offer fun songs for each of the memory verses from *The Incredible Race*.

The contemporary Memory Verse Music Leader Set (Music CD, Leader DVD, Resource DVD-ROM), featuring songs produced by Seeds Family Worship, is available in the contemporary Super Starter Kit and is also available for purchase separately (11-7-069). You can purchase student CDs (11-7-061) in packs of 10, as well.

The traditional Memory Verse Music Leader Set (Music CD, Resource DVD-ROM), featuring songs produced by Majesty Music, is available in the traditional Super Starter Kit and is also available for purchase separately (11-7-063). You can purchase student CDs (11-7-062) in packs of 10, as well.

Day 1 Song: "Romans 3:23—All Have Sinned"

Day 2 Song: "Genesis 11:9—Babel"

Day 3 Song: "Acts 17:26—He's Not Far from Us"

Day 4 Song: "1 John 4:14—S-A-V-I-O-R"

Day 5 Song: "1 John 4:11—Love One Another"

Theme Verse Song: "Revelation 7:9—Salvation Belongs to Our God"

## Cool Contests

*The Incredible Race* features a big deal, super fun contest system to enhance the racing theme. Each team will attempt clues and challenges at various spots throughout the VBS day at snacks, games, science/crafts, and lesson time, not to mention at assembly time, which will be the first challenge of the day. Check the opening assembly scripts for details, but the first challenge of each day involves showing a video, after which the kids guess the country they are going to that day. It's a simple and fun way to start off each day's assembly. See the Digital Resources for the daily Checkpoint Challenge Videos.

Besides the video challenge, it's important to announce and explain the challenge system to the racers during the

first day's opening assembly so they understand how it works and what they are working toward. Check with your VBS director to see what elements of the challenges your VBS will be participating in, and see the Director Guide (Cool Contests section) for more information. There are four possible tiers of challenges—individual challenges, team challenges, grade level challenges, or ALL VBS challenges. The ALL VBS challenges are the most important if you want to do just one portion. Depending on what is chosen for challenges, make sure to announce any pertinent info at the closing assembly each day so they know what is happening for the following day.

### *Suggested Prizes*

If you are interested in giving out prizes for any of the contests, here is a list of prizes available from [answersbookstore.com](http://answersbookstore.com):

- Tubular bandanas (11-7-152; 11-7-153; 11-7-154; 11-7-155; 11-7-156)
- Wristbands (11-7-083)
- Stickers (11-7-088)
- Puzzles (11-7-094)
- Water bottle (11-7-081)
- Pencils (11-7-085)
- Carabiner (11-7-082)
- Pen (11-7-086)
- Puffy stickers (11-7-143)
- Child backpack (11-7-144)
- Notepads (11-7-146)

- Scratch art (11-7-147)
- Goggles (11-7-148)
- Globe foam figure (11-7-149)
- Flying disk (11-7-157)

You can also check online retailers, such as Oriental Trading Company ([orientaltrading.com](http://orientaltrading.com)) and Rhode Island Novelties ([rinovelty.com](http://rinovelty.com)), for inexpensive bulk prizes, and local discount retailers that sell bulk individually wrapped candy or other edible treats. Some prize possibilities include: balsa gliders, toy Matchbox® cars, bandanas, sunglasses, drawstring backpacks, globe-themed items, international-themed trinkets, mini soccer balls, around-the-world tote bags, building blocks, toys from around the world such as tops or nesting dolls, and candies from around the world such as Toblerone® chocolates (Switzerland), Haribo® gummy candies (Germany), Mentos® (Netherlands), Cadbury® chocolates (Britain), Pocky Sticks® (Japan), and candy necklaces (US).

# Creature Features

During the assemblies each day, we'll share a Creature Feature to highlight the incredible design features of five amazing animals the Creator has designed. These are written into the closing assembly but can also be done during the opening assembly—your choice!

## Day 1: Anaconda

Today, we'll meet the anaconda, a snake found in South America, mainly in tropical rain forests. God designed the anaconda with a see-through scale over each eye so it can see underwater—kind of like built-in swim goggles! This and many more incredible features point to an amazing Creator who thought of everything!

Our anaconda reminds us of that sneaky serpent long ago who tempted Adam and Eve. They fell for that temptation and were the first people to disobey God (sin), and from that point on, the sin cycle has continued!



## Day 2: Arabian Camel

Time to meet the Arabian camel, an animal that lives in a part of Asia called the Middle East, where the tower of Babel was built. God gave camels many design features to keep them cool and help them survive in the hot desert. The hump on their back stores fat, which they use for food. It's kind of like having a built-in picnic basket or cooler! Their nostrils close automatically to keep the sand out of their noses, and they have special eyebrows, eyelashes, and feet to help deal with the desert sand.

As we go about our day and learn about the tower of Babel, the Arabian camel reminds us that God used that event to move people all over the world. Maybe people even rode on camels or loaded their supplies on them as they were moving. And from that one event have come all the cultures of the world. It impacted everything!



## Day 3: Pup Patrol

It's hard to resist a puppy, and even harder to resist a whole group of pups! Today's animal pals make up the Pup Patrol. These dogs are found in Africa and have unique, God-given design features that help them live well in the hot climate.



At the same time, they remind us that just as dogs are dogs, people are people. They may look a little different, but they're still dogs. We may look a little different, but we're still people—all one race! We'll talk more about how we got to looking different, but how we're all related.

## Day 4: Polish Mute Swans

Have you ever hit the mute button on your TV? The Polish mute swans, which live in Europe, are quiet birds. They aren't completely silent like the mute button, but are not noisy like other birds. They have tons of cool design features that keep them lightweight and able to stay in the air, like hollow bones and a gizzard. As always, God thought of everything!

If two mute swans are facing each other, they make a heart with their necks. That heart reminds us that God loves us so much, he sent his Son to save us!



## Day 5: Roadrunner

Have you ever seen the cartoon with Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner? Beep! Beep! Well, there actually is a bird called a roadrunner that lives in North America. It's called a roadrunner because it likes to run along roadways. Because roadrunners often live in hot desert areas, God gave them special features, such as the ability to get water through their food, plus special glands near their eyes where extra salt comes out of their bodies. This helps them keep the water they do have in their bodies.

Our roadrunner is a great reminder to run around and share God's love with others!





## Mission Moment

The mission emphasis to your VBS program provides an amazing opportunity for children to participate in giving to ministries that share the gospel. Check with your director to see when she wants to feature the Mission Moment—either during the assembly time or during one of the rotations. The craft guide contains additional activity ideas.

### *Hope Explorers*



God cares about the entire human race—no matter where they live, how they look, or what language they speak. During the week, we'll explore five different continents, discovering that we are different in some ways, but the same in many ways.

As your students explore Ecuador, the Philippines, Kenya, Romania, and the US, they'll hear the stories of boys and girls whose lives have been touched by poverty. These children have no guarantee of meals, shelter, or an education. And worst of all, they are living apart from the hope that only comes from salvation in Jesus Christ.

The good news is you and your kids have the power to make a difference!

The Bible says that giving generously to the poor is really giving generously to God himself (Proverbs 19:17). Teach your VBS class the great joy that comes from sacrificing for the sake of Jesus and his gospel.

### ***How It Works***

During the Mission Moment, you and your kids will travel by hot air balloon with Thurston (an anthropologist) and his best friend, Nathan. Together, you will learn about the

This year, we've partnered with Children's Hunger Fund to provide food and the hope of the gospel to hungry children in the US and across the globe. *Hope Explorers* is a fun and meaningful addition to your VBS program, teaching kids about poverty around the world, and empowering them to make a difference.

cultures of different countries—the food, music, games, and natural habitats that make each one unique. You'll also join in the Great Commission, making disciples of all nations. Your mission is to collect coins for meals that will be delivered in Children's Hunger Fund Food Paks. As each Food Pak is delivered to a family in need, relationships are built and the gospel is shared.

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

Rally your kids to raise funds for the meals that go in every Food Pak. Each meal costs only 25 cents! So, every dollar that's raised provides four meals for hungry kids—and each meal represents an opportunity to proclaim the gospel!

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

The following items are available on the Digital Resources.

- Printable Child Profiles—Five days of true stories about hungry kids in the US and other countries. These exciting and educational prayer briefings will help your kids connect with the real needs of suffering children.
- Printable "Map of the World" activity sheet, featuring locations of the children from the daily stories
- Printable banner artwork
- Printable artwork to help your kids track their fundraising progress
- Printable fold-up Coin Pak bank for collecting coins
- Daily videos

### ***Purchasing Items***

Included in your Starter Kit is a sample of the sturdy, pop-up Coin Pak bank made for your kids to use as they collect quarters for meals. Check with your director for this sample. After VBS, these will be fun souvenirs that

can be kept as reminders to always care for the needs of others. Coin Paks are available for purchase from Children's Hunger Fund. (See below.)

Also available for purchase are beautiful handmade bracelets from Uganda. The beads on these bracelets are rolled by hand out of magazine paper by Ugandan men and women who have been trained and given fair-wage employment through one of our trusted ministry partners in Africa. A limited number of these bracelets are available for purchase to give as prizes and souvenirs for your kids, or thank-you gifts for your volunteers.

To order Coin Paks or bracelets, please visit [ChildrensHungerFund.org/AnswersVBS](http://ChildrensHungerFund.org/AnswersVBS). To place an order over the phone, call Children's Hunger Fund at 800-708-7589. For questions regarding your Mission Moment resources, please call 800-708-7589 or email [VBS@ChildrensHungerFund.org](mailto:VBS@ChildrensHungerFund.org).

Orders must be received 14 days prior to your VBS date. Available while supplies last.

### ***Collecting Donations***

Give children their own Coin Pak banks for collecting donations. Work with your director to set up a fun area (e.g., treasure boxes) for kids to deposit their money each day as they begin VBS. Encourage your kids in the weeks leading up to VBS to save their money and then begin collecting the first day. Or, plan on passing out the Coin Paks on Day 1 and begin collecting on Day 2.

Once you've totaled your donations, please make out a check to Children's Hunger Fund and indicate "Hope Explorers" in the memo area to ensure proper recognition, and fill

out the Return Form. Send your check with the Return Form (on the Digital Resources) to:

Children's Hunger Fund  
Attn: Hope Explorers  
DEPT LA 24373  
Pasadena, CA 91185-4373

Learn more about the gospel-centered mercy ministry of Children's Hunger Fund at [ChildrensHungerFund.org](http://ChildrensHungerFund.org).

### ***Tracking Your Progress***

To help your kids maintain their excitement, announce how many meals they provided each day. Check with your director to find out when to do this.

Here are two fun ways to help your kids see their progress as they fundraise.

1. Make your own goal tracker and update it throughout the week. Create or print an empty road and put equally spaced marks along it with designated dollar amounts that progress toward your goal. Each day, fill in the road up to the next dollar amount using a marker and write the total number of meals raised so far next to it.
2. Show progress with the *Hope Explorers* PowerPoint slides. (See Digital Resources.) Update the slides with the total number of meals raised so far.

Consider having a contest between boys and girls or between teams to see which group can bring in the most money. Printable artwork and PowerPoint slides for your own goal tracker are on the Digital Resources.

# Daily Assembly Scripts

## Day 1: Checkpoint Opening Assembly

Note: Before the kids come into the assembly room, make sure the nose of the plane on the set is hidden. It comes out during the drama in today's closing assembly.

### Welcome (2 minutes)

Come out saying hello in other languages from around the world. (Hola! Kon'nichiwa! Bonjour! Jambol!) Welcome everyone to the start of *The Incredible Race*, and explain that each day, they will try to guess which continent we are racing to.

Then play the daily Checkpoint Challenge Video found on the Digital Resources (30 seconds). This is the first challenge the racers will attempt each day in this year's race-themed VBS that is filled with fun challenges.

After playing the video, have each group (team) quietly confer, then tell their team leader which continent they think it is. On the count of three, have everyone shout out what they guessed. Announce the correct answer to the whole group. Any team that guessed correctly earns the first score of the day, which means the team leader circles a country on the score card of the day (South America on Day 1).

Note: Team leaders will have the score cards. Assembly leaders don't need to do anything regarding score cards except to say when it's time to circle a country after the challenge.

### Song (3 minutes)

"The Incredible Race"

### Song (3 minutes)

Contemporary: "Gonna Lift You Up" / Traditional: "God Made All"

### Mission Moment (4 minutes)

SHOW: "Hope Explorers" slide

**This week during *The Incredible Race*, we'll be learning a lot about the human race. God made every person special in God's own image. He made all of us the same in many ways. Most importantly, he loves all people groups!**

**Each day of VBS, we'll have an opportunity to show God's love to kids all over the world! We're teaming up with Children's Hunger Fund to help children whose families don't have enough food to eat and who don't know Jesus.**

**Each day, we'll learn about a girl or boy in a different part of the world, and we'll hear about the particular problems their family faces. And then we're going to do something to help them!**

SHOW: "Hope Explorers—Julio" slide

**Are you ready to get started? Today, we'll be meeting a little boy in the country of Ecuador. His name is Julio.**

SHOW: Video 1—Julio

Child's Name: Julio

Country: Ecuador

Problem: Generational Poverty

**Julio was about the same age as some of you, wasn't he? But in some ways, Julio's life is very different from ours. One big difference is that Julio's family has very little to eat. But as you saw in the video, people from a nearby church have been bringing Children's Hunger Fund Food Paks to his family. They've told Julio and his family about Jesus and how much he loves them. That gives Julio's family hope. That's why we're calling our Mission Project "Hope Explorers."**

**So this week at VBS, we're going to help get Food Paks to families like Julio's. A Children's Hunger Fund Food Pak is a box with about 20 pounds of food inside. That's enough to feed a family of four for about a week. Each meal in a Food Pak costs just 25¢!**

**Each of you will be given one of these Coin Paks (show collection boxes) to take home. You can show the Coin Pak to your family and friends and tell them about kids like Julio. Ask them to help you donate coins for meals. Remember, every 25¢ provides one meal for a hungry child!**

**Starting tomorrow, bring back any coins you've collected. Each day, we'll count how many meals you've given so far. Together, we can deliver hope to kids in need all over the world. Not only are we giving them meals, but also we're helping them hear about the good news of Jesus, the Savior of the human race!**

Send each child home with a "Julio" profile sheet and a pop-up coin collection bank. Sturdy, pop-up collection banks are available for purchase from Children's Hunger Fund. See Mission Moment page for ordering instructions. Printable sheets and banks are included on the Digital Resources.

### Announcements (time varies)

Announce that you'll be having daily challenges, which are an important part of this year's race-themed VBS. Take time to explain the challenges for the week and how they will work. See the Cool Contests section in this guide for more details, and talk to your VBS director ahead of time so you know how you are structuring your particular VBS challenges. Also announce any other info pertinent to your situation.

### Prayer

### Dismissal

**Song** (play as children leave)

C: "We're One Blood" / T: "Jesus Saves" / Memory Verse Song: "Revelation 7:9"

Note: One test church planned for a guest from the continent of the day to come out during either the opening or closing assembly and share about his culture for a couple minutes. For today, for example, someone from South America would visit.

## Day 1: Checkpoint Closing Assembly

**Song** (3 minutes)

C: "Build Your Life" / T: "Babel, Babel, Babel"

**Song** (3 minutes)

"The Incredible Race" / Memory Verse Song: "Romans 3:23"

**Creature Feature: Anaconda** (5 minutes)

PRESENTATION SLIDES: See Digital Resources

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

It's Creature Feature time, so let's get started! Every day we've got a special animal pal we're highlighting.

SHOW: Bo the anaconda slide

Today's animal pal is Bo the anaconda. An anaconda is a snake that lives in the Amazon rain forest of South America.

SHOW: Anaconda slide

Did you know that anacondas are the thickest and longest snakes in the world?

Use your hands to make a circle to show how wide around you think a telephone pole is. Have kids do so, then the leader does so, showing what it actually is. That's how thick around an anaconda can be! When you pass a telephone pole today, think of the anaconda!

One leader stands at one end of the stage. The other leader moves about five feet away from the first leader who is staying in place. Ask the kids if they think the anaconda is about this long—five feet. NO! The moving leader moves a bit farther. Ten feet? NO! Move across the stage until the leaders are about 30 feet apart and tell the kids the anaconda can be as long as 30 feet! That's one huge snake!

SHOW: Anaconda head slide

The anaconda lives mostly in water. God designed its head with some amazing features that work well in water. Each of its eyes has a see-through scale over it, which works sort of like swim goggles. Its eyes and nose holes are positioned on the top of its head, so it can keep its head above water, but the rest of its body below water. That makes it tricky for other animals to see it, which helps the anaconda catch its food. When it catches food, it coils around it and squeezes, then uses its special jaws to eat it.

SHOW: Anaconda mouth slide

Everybody, open your mouth. Wider! Wider! Not even close to the anaconda's. God designed its jaws to come unhinged, allowing its mouth to get absolutely huge! It doesn't bite its food. It swallows its food head first and eats food bigger than the snake itself, like deer and alligators.

You'd think it would choke eating something so huge! But it doesn't because God designed a special tube that runs from its nose holes to the tip of its mouth that keeps it from choking when it is swallowing large animals.

SHOW: Bo the anaconda slide

Snakes are creepy crawly creatures, right? And we associate them with a serpent from long ago that tricked the first woman, Eve.

So Bo the anaconda can remind us that we all sin, and we all need Jesus to save us from our sin.

**Drama** (15 minutes)

See the Drama Production section starting on page 27 for details.

**Announcements** (time varies)

**Cool Contests** (4 minutes)

Announce winners of today's challenges if having winners, and give updates on the ALL VBS challenge goals. Announce whatever pertinent info they need to know about tomorrow's contests/challenges. For instance, if you are doing the individual challenges, explain how it works, and make sure every child leaves with a Day 1 Individual Challenge sheet. If doing the team challenges, remind them to do their Go and Do sheets, learn their memory verses, and come up with a team cheer.

**Prayer**

**Dismissal**

**Song** (play as children leave)

"The Incredible Race"