Drimary TEACHER GUIDE

RefueingStation



PRIMARY **COURSE OVERVIEW**

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Title	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
Continent	South America	Asia	Africa	Europe	North America
Refueling Station Lesson Focus	As the race starts, we explore the beginning of the human race and why nobody has run a perfect race through life.	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 develops 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.
Bible Passages	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
Mile Marker Memory Verses	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
Apologetics Focus	Sin cycle How the world got 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
Animal Pals	Bo the Anaconda	Jamal the Camel	Pup Patrol	Agape and Phileo the Polish Mute Swans	Racer the Roadrunner
World-class Science	Light It Up! Let It Rain	Flying High Full of Hot Air	DNA Spot the Color	Polishing Pennies Rainbow Float	Go! All Bandaged Up
World-class Crafts	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
Globe-trotting Games	South American Games	Asian Games	African Games	European Games	North American Games
Runway Café	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
Cool Contests	Guessing Game	Team Cheers	Dress-Up Day	Bible Verse Challenge	Mission Money Mania



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Project Coordinator: Stacia McKeever Writers: Randy and Barb Witt Content Editors: Roger Patterson, Dr. Georgia Purdom Editor: Karin Viet Interior Design: Diane King Cover Design: Jon Seest Illustrator: Paul Agner

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For more information, write: Answers in Genesis PO Box 510, Hebron, KY 41048

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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 (ziggurat). 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 softhearted 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

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

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

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

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

Frequently Asked Questions

The content of *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.

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.

Top 20 Teaching Tips for Teachers

- 1. Pray and study God's Word. This is your most important preparation. God has entrusted you with the awesome privilege of opening his Word and sharing it daily with the children. Walk worthy!
- Read through all your lesson plans well in advance and become familiar with the Digital Resources. Begin to pray and plan now, and continue to pray during and after VBS.
- 3. Be sure to check out page 7—Refueling Station Lessons—to find out more about the daily fun clues and challenges that are an important part of this year's race-themed VBS. Plan to incorporate at least one each day.
- 4. In this guide:
 - » Teaching Tips are marked with a \mathbf{Q} .
 - » Materials for each activity are listed next to the activity.
 - » The "teacher says" portion is bolded.
- 5. You may want to assign the task of gathering supplies for all the teachers to one person, or have the teachers divide up the supply list, with each being responsible for multiples of certain items. It's also helpful to get all the supplies ready in a box or bag ahead of time rather than gathering them day-by-day the week of VBS.
- 6. See Decorating Decisions for a picture and description of the teaching set. Also, when setting up the room, you may want to clear away tables and chairs, depending on the room size and number of children expected.
- 7. Attend the Teacher Workshop and the Gospel Workshop. Be prepared to share the good news of salvation!
- 8. Dress as if you are a trainer at the race. Wear an *Incredible Race* trainer T-shirt (see catalog), and have a backpack to grab supplies from. Running shoes and a bandana can complete your look.
- 9. Take on a persona to bring lessons to life. You may want to make up a fun name, dress in character and talk in first person, adopt an accent, or add some-thing new to your "costume" each day. Teach in a way that makes you feel comfortable.
- 10. Call the children by name. Name tags help with this.

- 11. Make sure to keep eye contact as you share the lessons, helping each child sense your warmth and care.
- 12. Children will be at various levels of spiritual comprehension. Pray for the Lord to take the message and do with it as he wills: plant seeds, bring to salvation, or strengthen and grow those who are already believers.
- 13. Have Bible passages from the lessons bookmarked ahead of time, and use your Bible throughout the lessons at the appropriate times. Show through your facial expressions and your actions the importance of the Scriptures.
- 14. Show love. All children, regardless of age or appearance, need to be loved. Greet them warmly each day and always be ready with smiles, encouraging words, and appropriate hugs. (Be aware of your church's appropriate touching policies.)
- 15. Be all there. Try to leave behind whatever is currently going on in your life and focus your attention on the children under your care.
- 16. When kids are sitting on the floor for drawing or writing activities, give them a firm surface (clipboards, old magazines, or books) to use underneath the papers. Cut corrugated cardboard or coroplast sheets into 9x12-inch pieces and add a binder clip for inexpensive clipboards.
- 17. Notice the good. Children want attention and will sometimes resort to acting up in an effort to receive attention, even if it is negative attention. Be proactive by noticing and praising the things they do right. Be an encourager.
- Children like order. Think through potential trouble spots in your day and decide on a firm, loving discipline strategy. Ask for help from experienced individuals.
- Children generally rise to the level expected of them, so challenge them to work on memory verses and their take-home student guides and challenges. Some may even want to try the bonus memory passage, which is 1 Corinthians 13:4–8, a wonderful passage about what love really looks like.
- 20. Have fun! Teaching should be a joy for you. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18).

Age-Level Characteristics

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

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

Characteristics of Children

Children have some common characteristics.

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

Characteristics of Primaries

Physical Characteristics

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

Takeaways for Us

- Use games to teach! Primaries love any kind of games, whether active or learning-type games.
- Help them learn to take turns and to be good winners and good losers! Both winning and losing well are important in God's sight.
- Use boy vs. girl competitions to get them revved up! As long as you keep it light and fun, they will enjoy these times!

Emotional/Social Characteristics

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

Takeaways for Us

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

Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

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

Takeaways for Us

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

Special Needs

The *Special Needs Teacher Supplement* (11-7-053) can help you accommodate and modify these lessons for those who need it, either in your regular classroom or in a self-contained classroom.

Refueling Station Lessons

At the Refueling Station, kids will have fun completing Bible clues and challenges as they discover God's love for the nations. This lesson time is written as a 35–40 minute period, divided into three sections.

- **Introduce It!** (5–10 minutes): Each day, the kids will be greeted with a challenge and Bible clue to get the lesson started.
- **Teach It!** (25–30 minutes): The Bible teaching and apologetics content is presented during this time.
- **Apply It!** (Remaining class time): This is the memory verse review and practical application time.

The lessons are jam-packed, so try to be organized and keep things moving. Ideas are written into each lesson to help you adapt if you have a longer or shorter lesson time than the 35–40 minute block. Because of the content-rich lessons, a little extra time is great if you can swing it! But if not, there are lots of options, so you may want to shorten or skip some activities.

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

New this year is the scoring system that has to do with the daily fun clues and challenges. Our test church kids were super into these! Throughout the VBS day at snacks, crafts, and games, kids will be completing challenges and tracking them on their team's daily score card. During the lesson time, they will also have an opportunity to complete a challenge. If successfully completed, the team leaders will circle a country on their score cards. (See the Digital Resources for a sample of a score card.) The team leaders will have the score cards, so you are not responsible for printing them or keeping score, except to say that the teams earned a score, which is noted in the lesson.

Note: If you want to add another scoring possibility during class time, you can use the daily review games. They are currently written in just for fun, but can be converted into a challenge by seeing if the racers can get so many questions correct in a certain amount of time. Whatever you decide to do, it's all great fun!

Below is a sample schedule of a typical day at VBS. Check with your director for a copy of the schedule and room assignment for your VBS.

Time	Group One	Group Two	Group Three		
9:00-9:15	Checkpoint Assembly—Opening: Large Meeting Area (Everyone Together)				
9:20-10:00	Refueling Station Lessons	World-class Science and Crafts	Globe-trotting Games and Runway Café		
10:05-10:45	Globe-trotting Games and Runway Café	Refueling Station Lessons	World-class Science and Crafts		
10:50-11:30	World-class Science and Crafts	Globe-trotting Games and Runway Café	Refueling Station Lessons		
11:35-Noon	Checkpoint Assembly—Closing: Large Meeting Area (Everyone Together)				

Sample Schedule

Memory Verse Songs

We have partnered with Seeds Family Worship (contemporary, ESV, 11-7-069) and Majesty Music (traditional, KJV, 11-7-063) 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. You can use the songs (either video or audio) during the memory verse time in each lesson. The Leader Pack (DVD, DVD-ROM, Music CD) comes with

the purchase of a Super Starter Kit and can also be purchased separately. You can also purchase and download the songs individually from our online store for use on a handheld device (answersbookstore.com). Student CDs in packs of 10 are available if you would like each student to have a copy of the songs (11-7-070 or 11-7-064). The option you choose will determine which type of media device you use to play it.

Student Extras

Check with your VBS director and choose one or more of these fun optional materials to give to your students so they can take home a review of the daily lesson content.

Also, decide with your director when it will work best to give out the various items: at the beginning of the day, during lesson time, during snack time (a good time to review), or at the end of the day (a good time to pass out student guides, bookmarks, and other items that need to make it home safely).

Student Guides: These age-appropriate guides feature a lesson review on the front of each daily take-home paper, as well as the memory verse, verse review game suggestion, and "Go and Do" section on the back that parallels the Apply It! part of the lesson. You can either go over these during class time or send them home to be completed with a parent or caretaker, which is what our test churches do. If you send the guides home, motivate the kids to do them because they are full of good stuff! Give them to the team leaders to pass out at the end of the day. Then have them check with the kids the following day to see how they did, and consider asking your VBS director to give contest bonus points to the individuals and teams for their hard work. The student guides are available in packs of 10.

- Junior ESV (11-7-071)
- Junior KJV (11-7-132)

Passports: These fun, interactive booklets feature the daily memory verses, animal pals, stickers, and a place

to stamp (11-7-093) for attendance. Check with your VBS director to find out when he or she would like to give these to the kids. They can receive them at any time during the first day. You can review them with the kids during the Apply It! section of the lesson, if you have time, or they can be stamped as the kids first arrive to VBS, which is what our test churches do. These are available in packs of 10.

- Junior/Primary ESV (11-7-091)
- Junior/Primary KJV (11-7-137)

Maps: These maps of the world feature the animal pals and are available in packs of 10. They can be passed out at the end of class or at the end of the day.

• Animal Pals maps—ESV 11-7-078; KJV 11-7-140

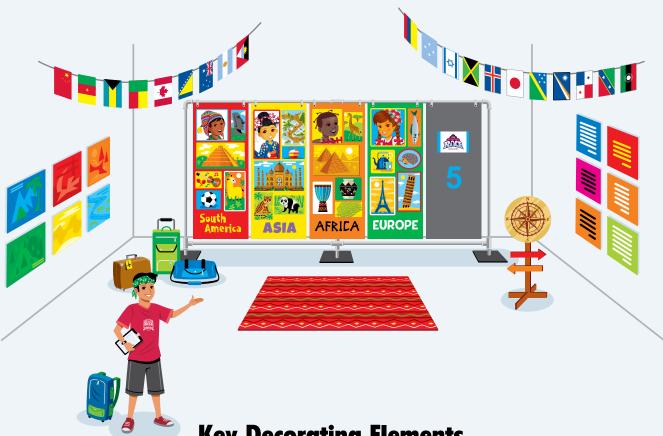
Bookmarks: These are available in packs of 10 and can be passed out at the end of class or at the end of the day.

- Gospel (11-7-076)—Day 4
- Revelation 7:9 (11-7-077)—Day 5

Exploring God's Word: This little booklet encourages your students to continue discovering God's Word for weeks after VBS has finished. It features a daily question and answer found in the Scripture verse. You or the team leaders can pass out one of these to each student on the last day of class at dismissal. Available in packs of 10 (11-7-075).



What could be more exciting than a race around the world? And so interesting too, with the beautiful variety of people, places, cultures, and customs! So be creative and use the tools and ideas in this section to capture the imagination of the kids with your classroom decorations. Remember that a colorful and engaging environment helps children learn better, remember more, and leave with happy memories.



Key Decorating Elements

To serve as a focal point for the teaching, *The Incredible Race* classroom features a backdrop with five panels. Mounted on the walls adjacent to the backdrop are the teaching, memory verse, and animal pal posters.

Double-Sided Backdrop

The backdrop consists of five separate panels displayed side-by-side with images on both sides. On the front of each panel is *The Incredible Race* logo with a number corresponding to the VBS day (1–5). On the back is the name of a continent and a collage of photos and/or illustrations of people, foods, sports, animals, and landmarks pertaining to that continent.

The panels can be made from sheets of corrugated cardboard or foam insulation, and their size is determined by the surface area needed for the collage and the amount of classroom space that you have.

You can display your panels in a variety of ways. They can be hung from a pipe and drape (or PVC pipe frame) system, hung from the ceiling, mounted directly to a wall with mounting putty, or simply propped against a wall. The only stipulation is that they must be able to be turned according to schedule.

The panels should be themed as follows: Day 1–South America; Day 2–Asia; Day 3–Africa; Day 4–Europe; Day 5–North America. Paint the panels a uniform color on the logo side and different colors on the continent sides. Choose an array of colors for the five continents that will look good side-by-side after the panels are turned around. Check Digital Resources for a logo and images related to each continent for your collages. You can also look online for photos of people, foods, sports, animals, and landmarks. At the beginning of VBS, all panels will show the logo side. Then, starting with Day 1, turn the first panel around to reveal the continent of the day. On Day 2, turn the second panel around and so forth each day through Day 5.

Classroom Scene Setter

As a quick and easy alternative to creating your own backdrop panels, a scene setter with five separate double-sided panels is available for purchase. Simply mount the panels side-by-side to a wall or display surface, then turn them around to reveal the featured continents. Use mounting putty or removable tape so they can be rotated without damage.



Directional Sign Post

Add a directional sign post to your classroom. Use a 48-in. 2x2-in. board for the post and a square 1x12-in. board for the base. Attach the post to the base and paint them black. Then mount some arrows and a large compass cutout on the post. Find the compass clip art image in Digital Resources and use an overhead projector to

HOW TO ENLARGE AND TRANSFER CLIP ART

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

enlarge and transfer onto a rigid material like corrugated cardboard.

Resource Posters

Contained in the Teacher Resource Kit are the teaching, memory verse, and animal pal posters. These are important visuals for the racers and should be displayed in an organized fashion on a wall (or walls) adjacent to the backdrop.

Other Props, Tips, and Miscellaneous Ideas

- Place a rug in front of your backdrop to create a stage effect.
- Have a few suitcases and hiking backpacks on display.
- Mount the world map from the teaching illustrations onto a piece of foam board so it can be held up during teaching time. (See Puppet Stage section below for an alternate way to mount the world map.)
- String some international flag streamers.
- Hang inflatable globes from the ceiling.

Puppet Stage

Because puppets are used daily in the Primary classrooms, you will need a puppet stage. Make one out of a large cardboard box or a tri-fold display board. Cut out a rectangular hole in the box or display board, cover the hole with fabric, and then paint or decorate the outside. Mount the world map (two posters from the Teacher Resource Kit that go side-by-side) on the outside of the puppet stage if possible.

Check out Pinterest.com/AnswersVBS for colorful photos of decorations from our test churches! Visit YouTube.com/AnswersVBS for how-to decorating videos!

DAY 1 Ready, Set, Go BEFORE BABEL

BIBLE PASSAGES

Racing Through Genesis Genesis 1—11

ANIMAL PAL Bo the Anaconda

LESSON FOCUS

As the race starts, we explore the beginning of the human race and why nobody has run a perfect race through life.

APOLOGETICS FOCUS

We'll explore the sin cycle and how the world got divided into continents.

MILE MARKER MEMORY VERSE

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23



Today's Lesson at a Glance

INTRODUCE IT!

Day 1 Refuel Challenge
 Option 1—South American Fruit Pictures
 Option 2—South American Fruit Samples

TEACH IT!

- Part 1: Racing Through Genesis 1–11
- Part 2: Puppet Pal—Obey Is the Way
- Part 3: Small Group Time
- Part 4: Review Game Challenge
 - Option 1—Trompo (Spin)
 - Option 2—Acertar a Moeda (Hit the Coin)
 - Option 3—Speed Round

APPLY IT!

- Part 1: Mile Marker Memory Verses
- Part 2: Go and Do
- Just for Fun: Spanish Song—"Jesu Cristo Es el Señor"

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read Genesis 1–11.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials as mentioned in the purple pre-prep boxes.
- Visit answersvbs.com/irfaq for more information on Genesis 1–11 and the breaking up of the continents.
- Pray.

Devotion 1

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

Take a look at the people around you. What do you notice first about them? Skin shade? Ability level? Physical characteristics? How they speak? Where they're from? How much money they make? Do you look for similarities to yourself or do you examine the differences?

Or . . . do you look at every individual human being as a precious image-bearer of our Creator first and foremost, and as your relative in the family of Adam and Eve?

We are in the middle of heated, sometimes violent, discussions on how people are treated based on their skin shade or ability levels. Tensions are high. Social media blazes with tweets and posts and photos of opinions from all sides.

Where are you in the middle of this? Do your words and actions and posts and tweets reflect the biblical idea that we are all part of the same family made by the same Creator and in need of salvation by the same Savior? Do you value listening to your fellow image bearers, seeking to understand their point of view, more than you value sharing your own opinion or memes that support your current view? Do you value the Creator's fearfully and wonderfully made creations more than you value the mic drop on the latest point you made? Do you wait to hear the whole story before rushing to judgment and hitting that "post" button? Are you willing to dialogue face-toface over lunch with a fellow descendant of Adam and Eve who may have a different skin shade and unique experiences, or are you intent on having him for lunch with your latest tweet?

Would your reaction to news and events change if your first thought was, "Wow, what an amazing image bearer he is!" instead of, "Wow, what $a(n) ___?$ "

The sin cycle that began with our—all of our—first parents continues today. We see it in the violence, the anger, the hatred in so many . . . and in ourselves. Are

we continuing the cycle with our attitudes and actions toward those who bear the image of God? Or are we standing against the antagonism and the us-versus-them mentality that grieves our—all of our—Creator? Are we making much of the reconciliation found only in Christ and through his love? Do we demean or resent our fellow image bearers in our thoughts and actions or do we treat them and think about them with dignity and respect?

This week, as we teach our kids about the incredibly amazing human race filled with so many beautiful shades of brown, let's take an honest look at our attitudes—both in public and in our secret heart-of-hearts. As we learn the true history of the wide variety of people groups and God's love for them, let's allow the Holy Spirit to produce his fruit in us and to conform us more to the image of the Son.

May we pray as the Puritans did:

Thy will is supreme in heaven and earth, and all beings are creatures of thy power. Thou art the Father of our spirits; thy inspiration gives us understanding, thy providence governs our lives. But, O God, we are sinners in thy sight; thou hast judged us so, and if we deny it we make thee a liar. Yet in Christ thou art reconciled to thy rebellious subjects:

subjects; give us the ear of faith to hear him,

the eye of faith to see him,

the hand of faith to receive him.

the appetite of faith to feed upon him;

that we might find in him light,

riches, honour, eternal life.

—Arthur Bennet, *The Valley of Vision* (The Banner of Truth Trust: 2005), "Seventh Day Morning: God's Good Pleasure." **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Although the gospel is presented in detail during Day 4, each lesson provides opportunities to share the gospel. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as to which of these opportunities to use.

Introduce It!

Day 1 Refuel Challenge (5-10 minutes)

Pre-prep: Gather your trainer costumes, which you'll wear all week. Choose an option below and prepare it as directed. For the Option 1 Challenge, cut the answer strips off the **FRUIT POSTER** and hang the poster and the strips (in random order). For the Option 2 Challenge, prepare the South American fruit. (See fruit suggestions below in the Option 2 Challenge.) Hang up the **WORLD MAP.** Get the **BIBLE CLUE** ready by printing it, folding the bottom up about three inches, folding the top down about three inches to overlap the bottom, and putting an *Incredible Race* logo sticker or other sticker on to keep it shut. (See illustration.) Stickers (11-7-087) are available to purchase from AnswersBookstore.com. Or *The Incredible Race* logo stickers can be made by cutting and pasting the logo numerous times onto an 8 ½ x 11-inch sheet of paper and then printing it on sticker-backed paper. Read page 7 for an overview of how the Bible clues and challenges work with the race's scoring system.

Depending on how you mounted your classroom set panels, either be prepared to turn the first day's panel when noted, or already have the Day 1 South America collage showing when the racers arrive. (Most likely you will need to do it ahead of time unless you can turn it quickly.)

As the racers come in and get settled, say:

- **Teacher 1:** Hola! I'm _____ and this is my assistant, _____. Welcome to Day 1 of *The Incredible Race*, where we'll be exploring God's love for the nations and racing around the world to different continents each day, learning about people all over the world who need to know of God's love through Jesus Christ. Did you know there are over 2,000 times in the Bible that God talks about the nations? Every nation and people group is important to God!
- **Teacher 2 or Teaching Assistant:** Hola! We're traveling today on our first leg of the race from here (point to where you are), to right here, which is South America. Show South America on the **WORLD MAP**, or ask a student to point to it, and turn the set panel to show the South America images if it didn't start out on the collage side.
- **Teacher 1:** The first thing you'll do each day when you come here to the Refueling Station is to complete a challenge that earns you the daily BIBLE CLUE, so let's check out today's Refuel Challenge. Each team receives the daily BIBLE CLUE once they successfully complete the Option 1 or Option 2 challenge. (You will notice it's easy to complete the Option 1 or 2 challenges. It's designed that way so teams will earn the BIBLE CLUE.)

Option 1–South American Fruit Pictures

Give the racers one minute to try to match at least three names of South American fruits with their pictures. Once they complete the task of matching at least three, you may hand them their **BIBLE CLUE** (also listed below).

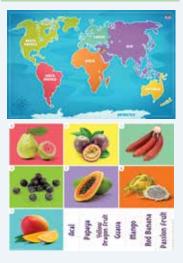
Option 2–South American Fruit Samples

Be adventurous and try a South American fruit—fresh or dried. (Check for allergies. If you're sure allergies aren't a problem, you may want to bring a fruit or food sample every day for the continent of the day. The test church kids really enjoyed them.) Today's possibilities: mango, pineapple, red banana, acai, yellow dragon fruit, guava, passion fruit, papaya, or coconut. If at least two racers in the group taste it, you may hand them their **BIBLE CLUE** (also listed below).

- □ Bible or children's Bible
- □ Costumes for teachers (see #8, page 5)
- Mounting putty or tape for hanging posters
- U World Map
- OPTION 1: Fruit Poster, cut apart, and timer (smartphone works)
- OPTION 2: South American fruit (see text) in bite-sized pieces, and wet wipes for cleanup
- Day 1 Bible Clue



♥ Be familiar with the lesson, but don't memorize it. Place it on a clipboard to use as a reference. You can decorate the back of your clipboard (the side the kids see) with travel stickers.



• Use fun names like Danny Dash, Airplane Annie, Top Speed Thompson, or Racing Ryan.

• The Bible and mounting putty or tape are mentioned just once a day but will be used throughout each day.

• Use your Bible often during the lessons, reading the verses and passages from there.

Bible Clue

- **Teacher 1:** You've just experienced fruits from South America. Now, to complete your challenge and earn a country to circle on your score card, you must correctly answer these Bible questions dealing with fruit:
- **Question 1:** In the Bible, who ate a fruit when they were told not to?
- **Question 2:** What book of the Bible is this account found in? (Hint: It's the first book of the Bible.)
- Answers: Adam and Eve, and it's found in Genesis.
- **Teacher 2:** If they got it right, remind the team leaders to circle a country on their score card, which they should have. Any country is fine. **Great job, racers! You're right! The first** book of the Bible, Genesis, records an amazing account involving fruit and the first two people, named Adam and Eve. Let's check it out!

Teach It!

Part 1: Racing Through Genesis 1–11 (15–20 minutes)

Pre-prep: Prepare one set of **CREATION CUE CARDS** and the children's Sin Cycle supplies (as directed below). Cover the **SIN CYCLE POSTER** three-fourths of the way, so only one quarter shows at a time. You will move this around to show sections 1, 2, 3, or 4 of the poster as noted in the lesson. The poster's cover should be similar to the children's Sin Cycle cover illustrated below.

For a no-prep version of the children's Sin Cycles, just give each child a paper plate. The racers will be drawing four scenes on the paper plate, but before the drawing begins, they will need to draw a vertical line from top to bottom, and another from side to side to divide the plate into four quadrants.

For the two-plate version, gather two white paper plates and a paper fastener per child. Put one plate on top of the other. Determine the center of the plates and, with the scissors, make a tiny hole through them that the paper fastener will go through. Cut out a quarter wedge from the top paper plate, allowing a little extra to remain at the V part of the wedge so it will hook into the paper fastener. (See illustration.) Put the top plate with the cut out wedge over the other plate and put the paper fastener through them.

Bookmark the verses or passages in the Bible you will be using. Do this every day.

Teacher 1: To start racing through Genesis, we're going to check out what was first going on at the beginning of time, which was around 6,000 years ago (approximately 4000 BC). Listen carefully, because every time we hold up a CUE CARD, you're going to say what's on the card. Let's practice. Do so, then begin. Teacher 2 holds up the CREATION CUE CARDs at the right time, and Teacher 1 shares the info.

Hold up **CUE CARD 1** (In the beginning . . .)

Teacher 1: God created the heavens and the earth.

Hold up **CUE CARD 2** (On Day 1...)

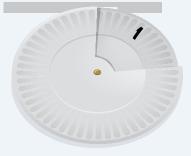
Teacher 1: God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good.

Hold up **CUE CARD 3** (On Day 2 . . .)

Teacher 1: God separated the waters above the earth from the waters below, and in between, he placed the air we breathe.

Hold up **CUE CARD 4** (On Day 3...)

- Creation Cue Cards, 1 set
 Sin Cycle supplies—paper plates, fasteners, and scissors, 1 Cycle per child (see
- Pre-prep)
 Thin markers or pens, 1 per child
- □ Sin Cycle Poster, covered (see Pre-prep)
- Day 1 Animal Pal Poster
- Day 1 Memory Verse Poster
- Rodinia Poster



• If you have time, volunteers can hold up the cue cards.

Teacher 1: God made the dry land and the seas, and it was ...

Hold up **CUE CARD 5** (. . . good.)

Teacher 1: And God made the plants, and it was good.

Hold up **CUE CARD 6** (On Day 4...)

Teacher 1: God made the sun, the moon, and the . . .

Hold up **CUE CARD 7** (. . . stars.)

Teacher 1: And it was good.

Hold up **CUE CARD 8** (On Day 5...)

Teacher 1: God made the flying animals and the swimming animals. And it was . . .

Hold up **CUE CARD 9** (. . . good.)

Teacher 1: And God blessed them and told them to multiply on the earth.

Hold up **CUE CARD 10** (On Day 6...)

Teacher 1: God made the rest of the animals. And then, his most exciting creation of all. Drumroll, please.

Hold up **CUE CARD 11** (Drumroll.)

Teacher 1: God made people in his image, man and woman. The first man's name was ...

Hold up **CUE CARD 12** (. . . Adam.)

Teacher 1: And the first woman's name was . . .

Hold up **CUE CARD 13** (. . . Eve.)

Teacher 1: And God saw everything he had made and it was ...

Hold up CUE CARD 14 (... very good!)

Sin Cycle 1–The Fall of Man (Genesis 3:1-7)

Teacher 1: But that's not where it ends. Let's use these Sin Cycles to draw the next part of the account.

Pass out the **SIN CYCLES** and the markers or pens, one of each per child.

- **Teacher 2:** Show just the Adam and Eve picture on the **SIN CYCLE POSTER** for them to use as a reference. Tell them to draw the picture in space 1 (the upper right) while you're talking. God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden and told them they could eat fruit from any tree in the garden except from one tree. Fruit from that tree was a no-no from God. But guess what happened? Take answers.
- **Teacher 1:** Right! Show the DAY 1 ANIMAL PAL POSTER. Bo our snake reminds us that a sneaky serpent came along and tempted Eve to eat the fruit God said not to eat, and she did. So did her husband, Adam.
- **Teacher 2:** They had disobeyed God's command. That's called sin. Can you think of an example of sin? Take answers.
- **Teacher 1:** When Adam and Eve sinned, God placed a curse on his perfect creation as punishment, and the cycle of sin began. Every person from then on was born a sinner, including you and me! We, too, have disobeyed God. The punishment for sin is death and eternal separation from God's goodness forever. Let's say our Bible verse together. Point to the DAY 1 MEMORY VERSE POSTER and recite Romans 3:23.
- **Teacher 2:** People sin over and over again, like the turning of this wheel! So when you look at the first section of your wheel, you can think about that never-ending cycle of sin. This wheel isn't a *bi*cycle, or a *tri*cycle, but a *Sin* Cycle! Let's check out the







next section of our Sin Cycle. Draw this picture in space 2 while we're talking. Show the Cain and Abel picture on the **SIN CYCLE POSTER** as a reference for them to use while you're talking.

Sin Cycle 2–Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-8)

- **Teacher 1:** The Bible records just one chapter later, in Genesis 4, the next episode in our Sin Cycle. We find out that Adam and Eve started having kids, and their first two kids were named Cain and Abel. Read verse 1 and the first sentence of verse 2.
- Teacher 2: Verse 2 tells us Cain worked out in the fields and Abel looked after the sheep.
- **Teacher 1:** When the boys grew up, they brought gifts to God called offerings. Abel brought a wonderful gift that God was pleased with, one of the firstborn sheep from his flock. Cain, on the other hand, brought an offering of fruit. God wasn't pleased with Cain and his gift, which made Cain angry. God talked to Cain about it, but Cain didn't accept God's correction. Have your parents ever corrected you about something you did wrong, and you got angry? That's an example of sin, just like Cain getting angry at God. It's very important for us to listen to wise correction.
- **Teacher 2:** Cain got so angry, he wanted to kill his brother, Abel. This was an extreme case of anger.
- **Teacher 1:** When Cain and Abel were in the field together, Cain rose up against his brother and killed him! This was the very first person to be killed, and it sure didn't take long! The very first child born on earth killed his brother! Isn't that incredible, in a bad way?
- **Teacher 2:** Let's finish that picture on our Sin Cycle and move on to 3. Show the flood pictures on the SIN CYCLE POSTER as a reference for them to use.

Sin Cycle 3–The Flood (Genesis 6:5, 11–14)

- **Teacher 1:** In the next chapter of the Bible, more time goes by—about 1,600 years or so after the beginning of time. Listen to what people were doing by this time.
- Teacher 2: Read Genesis 6:5 and Genesis 6:11–12. Here we go again with the Sin Cycle!

Teacher 1: Listen to what God decided to do. Read Genesis 6:13–14.

- **Teacher 2:** So God decided to send a worldwide flood. He instructed one man who was still obeying him to build a huge boat called an ark. The man's name was Noah. By faith in God, Noah built the boat, and he and his family and the land animal and bird kinds were saved. No other people got on the ark, and they all died because they were enjoying *sinning* more than *obeying God*. This is still the problem today—people love sin more than they love God.
- **Teacher 1:** And as a cool side note, before the flood, the earth was most likely one jumbo continent that scientists have named Rodinia. Show the RODINIA POSTER. But it was at the time of the flood, because of the great force of all the water bursting out from deep in the earth, and underground volcanoes going off, that the land broke apart. Over time, the land eventually settled into the seven continents we know today. If you look carefully, you can see how the seven puzzle pieces that are the continents of today look like they could have fit together to make one jumbo continent. In fact, many of the continents even have rock formations on their borders that look like they fit together.
- **Teacher 2:** Okay, let's move on to our next example. It takes place about 100 years after the flood. Show the tower of Babel picture on the SIN CYCLE POSTER as a reference for them to use as they draw.

Sin Cycle 4—The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1–9)

Teacher 1: Now we've raced to Genesis 11, where the tower of Babel account is recorded. Remember, this is only about 100 years after the flood, around 2242 BC.



- **Teacher 2:** Here we find the people sinning again. They began a building project that they shouldn't have. Guess what they were trying to build? Take answers.
- **Teacher 1:** Yep! A tower. Now there's nothing necessarily wrong with building a tower, but this time, they were disobeying God because he had commanded them to move all over the earth and not just gather in one spot, like they were doing. You see, after the flood, Noah and his family got off the ark. God told them something important: Read Genesis 9:1, 9:7. This was important because there weren't any other people except the eight people coming off the ark. If they were going to obey God, they needed to have kids, and their kids have kids, and so on. Then all those people needed to spread out all over the earth, because God said to fill the earth. Sadly, once again, they didn't obey God, and they all stayed together to build the tower instead.
- **Teacher 2:** So tomorrow, we'll make a stop at the tower of Babel and find out lots more, but for now, let's finish those Sin Cycles and check in with our puppet pal, Speedy!

While they are putting away their Sin Cycles and Teacher 1 is collecting their writing implements, Teacher 2 can get behind the puppet stage.

Part 2: Puppet Pal-Obey Is the Way (5 minutes)

Pre-prep: Check Decorating Decisions for details about how to make the puppet stage. Tape one **PUPPET SCRIPT** inside the puppet stage, and place the other on the clipboard. Dress the puppet in a mini VBS T-shirt, a khaki vest, or travel clothes. Mini bandanas made from thematic fabric each day can be a fun addition. (Check YouTube.com/AnswersVBS to see a rain forest print for Day 1, a desert or camel print for Day 2, an African animal print or African patterned fabric for Day 3, a European print for Day 4, and a North American print for Day 5). Attach the candy or cookie to the palm of the puppet's hand.

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

If you don't have a teaching assistant or co-teacher, enlist someone (a team leader 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.

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

One teacher should be in front of the puppet stage, and one behind it, working the puppet. When the puppet comes up, hold your arm back and down and have the puppet take three steps up, 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, Speedy, to come out. On the count of 3, let's all call to him (her). Ready? 1, 2, 3—Speedy!
- **Puppet:** Come up wearing or holding something you shouldn't have, like a piece of candy or a cookie. **Hey, everybody! Watcha doing?**
- Teacher: Well, the question should really be, what are you doing? How did you get that?

Puppet: Well, I . . . uhhh . . . mmmm . . .

Teacher: Hmmm, Speedy, have you been doing something your mom told you not to do?

Puppet: Ummm . . . why do you say that?

- Puppet (girl or boy) in costume
- ClipboardDay 1 Puppet Script
 - (2 copies)
- A piece of candy or a play food cookie, and tape

Teacher: Because I heard your mom say not to do that, but here you are with it.

Puppet: No! I didn't do anything wrong.

Teacher: Speedy, don't make it worse by lying. Tell the truth. God is truth and he wants us to tell the truth.

Puppet: Hang your head and look sheepish. Okay, I admit it. I did take it.

Teacher: Do you know what that's called when you disobey your parents?

Puppet: What?

- **Teacher:** Sin. Sin is when we don't obey God. I was just talking to the kids about sin. In fact, our verse today is about sin. Let's say it together, everyone! Recite Romans 3:23.
- **Puppet:** Well, I obey *God*! I just wasn't obeying my mom.
- **Teacher:** You know, God says in the Bible that children are to obey their parents. So if you obey your parents, you're obeying God.

Puppet: Wow, I guess I blew it.

Teacher: Yeah, you sinned. We all do. That's the bad news. But the good news is God sent Jesus, his Son, to take the punishment for your sin. The punishment for our sin is death. Anyone who admits he sinned and believes Jesus came and died and came back to life to take the punishment for his sin can ask God to forgive him, and to make him a child of God.

Puppet: Wow, that's better than good news—that's great news!

Teacher: It sure is! Boys and girls, if you want to hear more about this, make sure you talk to _____ this week at VBS! In the meantime, Speedy, you need to let your mom know what you did and tell her you're sorry.

Puppet: Okay. I want to obey God, so I'm going to tell my mom the truth.

Teacher: Good move, Speedy. You do that, and we'll see you tomorrow!

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

If small groups aren't feasible in your setting, you can incorporate some or all of these questions into large group time and do them together as the teacher leads the discussion, or print off the **DISCUSSION SHEETS** and give them to the team leaders who can lead a discussion during snack time or any down time each day. These are good to fit in somehow and at some point in the VBS day if possible.

Divide into small groups of 4–6 racers with a team leader in each group. (Adjust depending on how many leaders and kids you have.) Discuss some or all of the following questions from the **DISCUSSION SHEET**. Any day a Bible passage is mentioned, help them look it up and read it together, or have it bookmarked and read it to them.

- 1. Have you ever been in a race? Take responses. Have you ever been to a different country? Take responses.
- 2. Have you ever disobeyed a command from God, like lying or disobeying your mom or dad? Take responses. Leaders, you may want to share a personal example here from your life that is kid-appropriate. Do you remember what that's called when we don't obey God's commands? Pause for responses. Sin is disobeying God. It's anything we think, say, or do that goes against God's commands. We learn what God calls sin in the Bible.
- 3. Is sin good for us or bad for us? Pause for responses. It's bad. Even though sin may seem enjoyable at the time, it's always wrong to go against God. But, we've got the happiest news ever to share with you. It's really, really, really, really good news! God has a plan to defeat sin, and it's great news for each of you personally. I'm so excited for you to hear more about it this week! (Leaders, you may want to share the gospel here.)

Gospel Opportunity

Day 1 Discussion Sheets, 1 per small group leader

Q Gospel Opportunity

Part 4: Review Game Challenge (5–10 minutes)

Games are a big hit with this age group! They're also a great way to cement in what you've taught. The test church kids enjoyed all of them.

Pre-prep: Choose an option below, both of which are traditional games played by children in South America. Option 1 requires no pre-prep besides gathering the tops. Option 2 pre-prep is listed below. Option 3 requires no supplies or pre-prep.

Option 1–Trompo (Spin)

In this favorite South American game, kids see who can keep their tops spinning the longest. (There are variations of this game, and variations of what kind of tops to use. A simple, inexpensive top for each child works fine for our version.)

To play: Give each child a top. Ask a review question (listed below). On the count of 3 (you may want to count in Spanish), each child must shout out the answer. If they get it right, they spin their tops at the same time. (This will be on the honor system regarding if they got the answer correct.) The person whose top spins the longest wins that round. Ask another question and do the same. Continue on as time allows.

Option 2-Acertar a Moeda (Hit the Coin)

In this traditional Brazilian game, kids try to hit a coin off a stick. Their team will earn a turn to try to do so by answering a review question correctly.

Pre-prep: Gather a rod or broom handle that is 14–18 inches in height and put it in a firm base, such as a weighted gallon milk jug (empty it and fill it with sand) or a Christmas tree base. Draw or make a circle about 5 inches around the base using painter's tape or chalk. Place a coin on top of the rod. Divide into two teams. (Boys and girls is a good option.) Give each player a coin.

To play: Have the boys stand around one side of the circle and the girls on the other. The teacher asks a review question. The team quietly confers together, and on the count of three, each team shouts out their answer. (Or, they can tell their answer to the team leader, who will say it when the teacher asks.) If correct, the first player on each team (still standing behind the circle) tosses the coin at the rod, trying to knock off the coin that's on the rod. If the player does, the team scores 5 points. If the coin on the rod lands outside the circle, the team earns 10 points. Play as time allows. The team with the most points at the end of time wins.

Option 3–Speed Round (for any day)

This version is not specifically geared toward the continent of the day, but it's quick and requires no supplies. It works any day you need an easy, speedy choice. Just swap out the questions for whatever day you're doing.

To play: Divide into two or more teams. Ask some or all of the review questions and give a point for every correct answer. The team with the most points at the end of time wins.

Questions

1. Was the original world God created good or full of sin?

Answer: Good.

2. Who were the first people to sin?

Answer: Adam and Eve.

3. What is sin?

Answer: Not obeying God (or something to this effect).

4. Who were Adam and Eve's first two children?

- OPTION 1: Tops, 1 per child (can be bought in bulk online)
- OPTION 2: Dowel rod or broom handle, firm base (see text), painter's tape or chalk, and coins (1 per child)

• If playing with young primaries, you may want to make these questions Yes or No answers or multiple choice. Answer: Cain and Abel.

5. What did Cain do when he got angry?

Answer: He killed his brother.

6. Why did God send the flood?

Answer: All the people were sinning continually. Wickedness had filled the earth.

7. Yes or No: Did the earth originally have seven continents? If not, when did the continents break apart?

Answer: No, the earth most likely didn't originally have seven continents but one large one. The breaking up most likely occurred during and after the time of the flood.

8. How many years (approximately) went by between the flood and the tower of Babel? 10 or 100?

Answer: About 100.

9. People have sinned since just about at the beginning of time. Yes or No: Do we sin now, and if so, what's an example of a sin?

Answer: Yes, we sin now. Answers will vary as to an example: lying, stealing, disobeying parents, being unkind.

10. Why is sin bad?

Answers will vary: Sin separates us from God, who is holy and without sin. Sin makes God sad. Our perfect God can't allow sin to go unpunished, but there's good news! Jesus came and died on a cross and rose from the grave—to take the punishment for our sin.

Apply It!

In the remaining time, complete one or more of the following ideas in class. You won't have time to do them all, but know that these ideas are also on the back of the student guides. Send the student guides home each day as a fun review, and also to encourage the racers to do the practical ideas (the Go and Dos) that apply the lesson to real life. They're important!

Consider giving challenge bonus points for every Go and Do section they complete at home.

Pass out Animal Pals maps, one per child, or have the team leaders do so at the end of the day. Put a stamp in the passports (or have team leaders do so as the kids first arrive at VBS) and/or review the student guides.

Part 1: Mile Marker Memory Verses

Pre-prep: For *Vine on a Line*, prepare the materials as described below in the Challenge section. Do the same for tomorrow's verse and the theme verse if you think you'll get to them. Cue the memory verse song. Hang up the **DAY 1 MEMORY VERSE POSTER** and the **THEME VERSE POSTER**.

Today's Verse: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

Note: You may want to learn a word or two of the verse in Portuguese, the most spoken language in South America, or in Spanish, another widely spoken language in South America.

Practice the verse several times by playing the appropriate song from the Memory Verse CD and using the **DAY 1 MEMORY VERSE POSTER** as a reference. Then, try the challenge.

Challenge: *Vine on a Line*—Write each word of the verse on a separate construction paper leaf and put the leaves in order. Tape them to the string. Hang up the string. Each time you say the verse, take away one more leaf until you're saying it with no leaves left.

Tomorrow's Verse: "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

Gospel Opportunity

- □ Animal Pals maps, 1 per child
- Day 1 student guides, 1 per child
- □ Passports, 1 per child
- □ Stamp for Passports
- Memory Verse Music CD and player
- Theme Verse Poster and Day 1 Memory Verse Poster
- Vine on a Line supplies green construction paper, marker, string or rope, tape, and scissors



• If short on time, practice saying the verse a few times together, making up motions.

Try the challenge again, this time saying tomorrow's verse. You may also want to practice the week's theme verse, using the **THEME VERSE POSTER** as a reference.

Part 2: Go and Do

- Have someone help you look up John 14:15. If you love God, should you want to obey him out of love?
- We can never obey God perfectly, so talk to God (that's prayer) and thank him for sending his Son Jesus Christ, who is perfect and who forgives our sin when we repent.
- Think of a command in the Bible you find hard to obey. God is kind, but maybe it's hard for you to be kind to your sibling. God says to obey your parents, but maybe you don't come right away when called or don't go to bed without fussing. If you are a child of God, you can ask God to give you the strength to obey cheerfully and right away.
- Ask your parent or guardian if they can remember ever disobeying their parents or teachers when they were your age. What should you do when you sin (disobey God)?
- Check answersvbs.com/irkids for more fun information!

Ask yourself this question: How do I feel about my sin?

Just For Fun: Spanish Song

Each day, there's a song in a different language that coordinates with the continent of the day. Today's song is **"JESU CRISTO ES EL SEÑOR."** Check it out on the Digital Resources and teach it to your kids!

Jesu Cristo es el Señor (Jesus Christ is the Lord)

El Señor, el Señor (the Lord, the Lord) Jesu Cristo es el Señor (Jesus Christ is the

Lord)

Gloria sea a el (Glory be to him)

Ya de mi vida es el Señor (of my life is the Lord—conveying the idea that Jesus is Lord of my life) De su iglesia es el Señor (of his church is the Lord—conveying the idea that Jesus is Lord of his church) Del universo es el Señor (of the universe is

the Lord—conveying the idea that Jesus is Lord of the universe) Gloria sea a el (Glory be to him) • End each day's Refueling Station lesson time with prayer!

"Jesu Cristo Es el Señor" song and player (also available on Simple Songs CD, 11-7-141)