

A vibrant tropical-themed banner for a snack event. The banner is orange with a wooden frame, decorated with green leaves, torches, and a yellow flower. Below the banner, a young girl with dark hair, wearing a blue floral dress and a purple flower lei, smiles while holding a plate of snacks and a cup. The background is a blurred crowd of people at a party.

# TROPICAL TREATS SNACKS

LEADER GUIDE



# Leading a Child to Christ

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” Romans 1:16*

VBS presents an ideal opportunity to share the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ with all attending. Every leader and team member should be ready to clearly present the gospel and counsel those wanting to learn more. Children are usually soft-hearted toward things of the Lord, and some will be interested in becoming a follower of Christ. Be ready, because eternal matters matter most!

## BEFORE

- **Pray.** Salvation is God's work, not ours. We cannot bring about salvation for anyone. We need to ask God to prepare the children and open their hearts to him.
- **Be prepared.** Learn more about presenting the gospel and counseling a child about salvation.

## DURING

The gospel will be presented during the lesson time. Opportunities may arise, however, to share with a child one-on-one or with a small group of children. If so, keep the following in mind:

- Becoming a child of God involves repenting of one's sin and having faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Repentance involves understanding what sin is (disobeying God's commands) and desiring to turn from that sin.
- You can use *How Can I Become a Child of God?* to explain the plan of salvation. Along with this, use your Bible. Children need to see and hear God's Word, so have your Bible opened and marked ahead of time with the appropriate scriptures.
- Avoid abstract phrases like “asking Jesus into your heart.” Instead, use terminology like “becoming a child of God.” Most children still think in concrete terms and need examples that are easy to understand.
- If a child indicates an interest to know more after hearing the gospel presentation, ask questions (such as one or more of the following) that require more than a “yes” or “no” answer:
  - » What do you want to talk to me about?
  - » Do you know what sin is?
  - » Can you think of a specific sin (wrong) you have done? Are you bothered by your sin?

**These questions are important.** A child who cannot verbalize a sin or does not seem to be repentant about being a sinner may not fully understand his need for a Savior. In this situation, you might list a child-oriented example of sin and ask him to notice any time he catches himself sinning over the next few days. Give him *How Can I Become a Child of God?* Pray with him, then send him on his way. Check back a day or two later, if possible.

- » Why did Jesus come to earth? Why did Jesus need to die? Why did Jesus rise again?
- » Why do you want Jesus to be your Savior?
- » Why should God let you into his family? (Make sure the

child understands that salvation is not based on what he does, but is a gracious gift of God through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus.)

- Pray for discernment while listening to a child's answers.
- When a child seems to have a basic understanding of salvation (belief in Jesus' death and resurrection, admission of and repentance from sin, and a desire to follow the Lord), encourage him to talk to his parents about what it means to become a child of God (if they are followers of Christ). Encourage a child who comes from a non-Christian home to verbalize his understanding to the Lord through prayer. There is no one prayer that should be prayed. Encourage him to ask the Lord to forgive him and help him know he is a child of God.
- Let him see in your words and your face that you are excited that he wants to become a child of God! Read Luke 15:10 to him.
- Some children may not want to make decisions but may want to learn more, to be assured of salvation, or to confess sin. Read Romans 10:9–10 and John 10:28–29 with children who are seeking assurance of their salvation. Encourage them to ask the Lord to help them know they are his children. If a child wants to confess sin, read 1 John 1:9 with him and encourage him to ask the Lord to help him know he is forgiven when he repents.

## AFTER

- Review what it means to be a child of God.
  - » How long does God keep his children? (Hebrews 13:5b, John 10:28–29)
  - » Can anything separate God from his children? (Romans 8:38–39)
  - » What happens when God's children sin? (1 John 1:9)
  - » What do children of God believe? (Romans 10:9)
- Explain that Jesus loves his children and wants to spend time with them. Discuss practical ways to grow as a child of God. Provide him with *Growing Up in God's Family*, and share the following:
  - » Read your Bible, and obey what you read. You can start your Bible reading with the short Bible study you will receive the last day of VBS. (Make sure he has a Bible at home, and if not, provide one. Write his name, the date, and the occasion [VBS] on the presentation page.)
  - » Pray every day. Prayer is talking to God.
  - » Go to a church that believes and teaches the Bible as the Word of God.
  - » Tell others about Jesus. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors how they can become children of God.
- Fill out a Decision Card. Turn in to the VBS director.
- Stay in touch with the child through postcards, visits, or phone calls. Invite him to upcoming church events.



# TROPICAL TREATS

## Course Overview

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
<b>God is . . .</b>	GR+8	ALL+MY+T	RUE+LEARN-N	E+MAN+YOU+L	TRUSTY-Y+WORD-D+THEE
<b>Lighthouse Lesson Focus</b>	God is GREAT! He is the one and only God, the awe-inspiring Creator.	God is ALMIGHTY! He is all knowing, all powerful, and all present.	God is RULER! He is the majestic king who is holy and perfect.	God is EMMANUEL! He is the loving and good Savior who came to earth.	God is TRUSTWORTHY! He is our rock. We should praise, thank, worship, adore, and live for him.
<b>Medallion of the Day</b>	Number 1	Letter O	Crown	Heart	Diamond
<b>Bible Passages</b>	Paul in a City of False Gods Acts 17:16–34	Jonah and God Almighty Book of Jonah Psalm 139	Isaiah's Vision of God Isaiah 6:1–3 Psalm 8	God Comes to Earth (Gospel Presentation) Select Scriptures	David Trusts God 1 Samuel 17
<b>Treasured Verses</b>	Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. Psalm 145:3	Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me? Jeremiah 32:27	And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" Isaiah 6:3	But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8	Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5–6
<b>Apologetics Focus</b>	There's only one God as revealed in the Bible. You can't make up a god of your choosing.	Nothing is too hard for God.	God is the same in the Old Testament as he is in the New Testament. He was and is and always will be in charge.	God is three-in-one—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Even though there is mystery to this, God is knowable.	God is bigger and greater than our unanswered questions. We can trust him.
<b>Animal Pals</b>	Camo the Chameleon	Flip the Flapjack Octopus	Clark the Great White Shark	Jam the Immortal Jellyfish	Trusty the Macaw
<b>Deep Sea Science</b>	Rainbow Water Mystery Color	Can Crushing Diving Octopus	Diaper Duty Shark Float	Lava Lamps Sea Snakes	Salty or Fresh? Jewel Treasures
<b>Deep Sea Crafts</b>	Tropical Tree Glass Gem Magnets	Shell Necklace Splash Octopus	Wind Chime Great White Game	Mini Diorama Gospel Sand Art	God's Attributes Rock Seek and Find Treasure
<b>Ride the Tide Games</b>	Island Ambush Island Olympics	Fish Out of Water Sharks and Minnows	Glory Corners Tropical Relays	Triple Play Take Heart	Buccaneer Barriers What's the Treasure?
<b>Tropical Treats</b>	One and Only Bread Seascape Snacks	Pail of Whales Omni Os	Shark Teeth Moon and Star Sammies	Heart Melts Jolly Jellyfish	Hidden Treasure Treats Treasure Maps
<b>Cool Contests</b>	Swedish Fish Guessing Game	Team Cheers	Dress-Up Day	God of Wonder Challenge	Mission Money Mania





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### *Tropical Treats*

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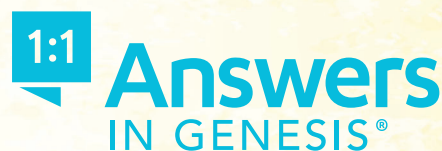
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# Handy Helps

## Fun in the Sun

What is it about a tropical island that is so captivating—the beach, sunny skies, sparkling water, and awesome resorts? Or how about the beauty, sunsets, island animals, and glittering stars? It certainly is a special place on earth.

On *Mystery Island*, prepare to be thrilled from the top of your sun-drenched head to the tip of your sandy toes as we explore an intriguing and mysterious tropical paradise while tracking down the one true God.

**Day 1: God is GREAT!**—As we stop in Acts 17 and find a city full of idols, we'll hunt for clues about our great God and discover we must have the right view of him. We can't make up a god of our own choosing.

**Day 2: God is ALMIGHTY!**—Our mighty God knows everything, is everywhere, and has the power to do anything. As we study the account of Jonah, we'll ooohhh and aaahhh as we focus on the three big Os of God—his omniscience, his omnipotence, and his omnipresence.

**Day 3: God is RULER!**—We'll check in with Isaiah and realize God is not like us. Our minds will be blown away by his vastness, beauty, and holiness.

**Day 4: God is EMMANUEL!**—God is high and mighty, Lord of all creation. And yet, he also came to earth (Emmanuel means “God with us”) and desires a relationship with the people he has made. He is good and he loves us.

**Day 5: God is TRUSTWORTHY!**—With the account of David, we'll learn that God is great, God is good, and God is perfect in all things, so we can trust him with our lives. He is our rock.

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

**Lighthouse Lessons**, the teaching time. Here, islanders will track down truths about the one true God and discover he is a priceless treasure.

**Tropical Treats**, the snack spot. Islanders will enjoy island eatables at this yummy stop.

**Ride the Tide Games**, the recreation location. At this location, islanders attempt fun surf and sand challenges.

**Deep Sea 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, or 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 **Islander 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 two siblings who are invited to an island treasure hunt as part of their inheritance from a rich uncle. In the midst of their search, much mystery, intrigue, adventure, and humor occur, and valuable lessons are learned.

So grab your beach tote, and let's head out for some fun in the sun at *Mystery Island*!

## 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 teaching. 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

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repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. We believe VBS is a great way to introduce them to God, as it is one of the biggest outreaches of the year for most churches.

We pray you will find that every prayer prayed, every minute invested, every dollar spent, and every word

spoken will bring God glory as you reach kids for Christ. Just remember—VBS is worth it! May God richly bless your VBS. We're praying for you!

## Your Role

Your role as the Snack Coordinator is outlined in the following pages. Your responsibilities may include:

- Planning snacks for all age levels
- Organizing the snack donation sign-up
- Buying supplies that have not been donated
- Preparing daily snacks for VBS and/or overseeing others who are helping with snacks
- Monitoring which children have allergies and planning accordingly
- Coordinating the serving of snacks each day

- Making sure key lesson themes are reinforced through the snacks
- Overseeing the cleanup of the snack area(s) each day
- Praying over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS

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

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

## Frequently Asked Questions

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

## 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.

**Islanders:** The kids at VBS. Islanders are put in groups named after tropical islands (e.g., Puerto Rico, Bora Bora, Fiji).

**Group Guides:** Adults who guide the islanders from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required for this position.

**Keepers:** Teachers at the Lighthouse Lesson time.

**Lighthouse Lessons:** Rotation site where Bible and apologetics teaching occurs.

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

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

**Tropical Treats:** Indoor or outdoor site where island eatables are served.

**Ride the Tide Games:** Indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred) to dive into surf and sand games.

**Treasured 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:** 2–4 year olds.

**Pre-Primaries:** 4–6 year olds, or kids who are age 4 through those who have completed kindergarten.

**Primaries:** 6–9 year olds, or kids who have completed grades 1–3.

**Juniors:** 9–12 year olds, or kids who have completed grades 4–6.

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

Find [these items](#) in your teacher kit. Find [these items](#) in your digital resources.



# Top 20 Tips for Tropical Treats Snack Time

1. Pray! Study God's Word and the VBS lessons! This is your most important preparation. Give all concerns to the Lord, and watch *him* do great things.
2. After reading the daily snack choices, including the additional ideas listed in the Tip Corner, Super Simple Options, Healthy Options, and Toddler Options, decide which snack you will serve each day. Keep in mind that the toddler snack ideas can also be fun choices for older kids and vice versa. There are also yummy additional snack ideas at the back of the book you may want to use. Test each recipe ahead of time to learn how to prepare the snack efficiently. Also, check out Pinterest.com/AnswersVBS for great pictures of the snacks and fun ways to present them at meetings and VBS.
3. Calculate your portions based on the snack supply list. (See back cover for the main snack options. The other ideas in this book are not included on the back cover supply list.) Make a snack donation list based on what you've chosen, and share it with those in your ministry.
4. Don't forget to include VBS workers in your calculations! Offer munchies for adult and teen helpers to grab on the run.
5. Plan two snacks per day for toddlers. (See "Toddler Snacks" on page 7.)
6. Don't use small foods that may be choking hazards for young children (e.g., whole grapes, peanuts, marshmallows, raisins or dried fruits, hard candies, chunks of cheese, popcorn).
7. Check with local restaurants for donations of cups, napkins, or lemonade mix.
8. Set up a collection area for incoming supplies. Label the supplies for VBS to prevent hungry people from opening unlabeled food. Stockpile your items in a safe place.
9. Assess your stock often. As VBS approaches, purchase what has not been donated.
10. Prepare as much as you are able to ahead of time. Use zippered baggies when possible to hold individual snacks for each child.
11. Be aware of allergies. Some common allergens include nuts (e.g., peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oil, and tree nuts), dyes (red, blue, and yellow), dairy items, berries, gluten, wheat, soy, eggs, and corn. Keep a list of children with allergies, and monitor what is being served to them. Plan alternate snacks, or ask parents to provide an alternative. It's also helpful to make a list of all the ingredients used in each snack so parents can see if there will be any problematic ingredients. Post the daily list in a visible spot (on the entry doors, at the snack location, at the info counter) and in your Caretaker Handbook. Make sure all leaders and snack servers are aware of who has what allergies. Be vigilant and careful regarding all of this!
12. Enlist help for the preparation station in the kitchen and for the serving station in the refreshment area. If serving indoors, set up the serving station away from kitchen knives, hot pans, and potentially slippery floors. If serving outside, place a table in the shade.
13. Decorate the space so it has kid appeal, and hang the "Tropical Treats" sign. Post a sign announcing the featured food and drink of the day. Check "Decorating Decisions" in the *Director Guide* for more decorating ideas. Play the VBS music CD.
14. Check the daily attendance to get an accurate number of children. Make extra snacks for latecomers.
15. Use good hygiene. Adults must wash their hands before preparing food, and children should take a quick bathroom break and wash their hands before refreshment time. Rubber gloves should be worn by food staff, and long hair should be pulled back. Use wipes or hand sanitizer for quick hand cleanup.
16. Keep drinks in large coolers (e.g., 10-gallon coolers with a pour spigot) so they will stay cold.
17. Pray and thank God for the refreshments before eating.
18. Reinforce the day's lesson while the children are eating, using the Teaching Tie-In given for the snacks. (Make sure to have a Bible to read verses that are referenced.) Try to engage the kids in discussion about the topic, and use the accompanying Conversation Starters and WOW Facts. Adjust to fit the age level.
19. Place large, wheeled trash cans with trash bags in the area for quick cleanup.
20. Scripture says to taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8). Remind the kids of this as they are enjoying God's good gifts of food and drinks.

Find [these items](#) in your teacher kit. Find [these items](#) in your digital resources.



## 6 • Shopping List

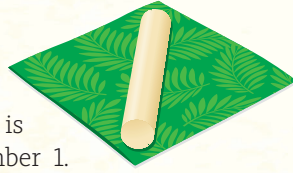


# Toddler Snacks

## Day 1

### Number 1 String Cheese

Buy pull apart string cheese that is in stick form, resembling a number 1. Give each child one. (Or substitute a large pretzel rod. It also looks like a number 1.)



#### TEACHING TIE-IN

Look at our cheese snack. What number does it remind you of? *Take responses.* Yes, it looks like the number 1. Let's put up one finger. *Do so.* Today, we're talking about how there's only one God—the God of the Bible. If you want to know about the one true God, go to the Bible for answers.

Let's thank God for being the one true God and for this yummy cheese snack.

### Seascape Snacks

See page 11 in this guide for directions and an illustration. You may want to use a smaller cup. Share the following Teaching Tie-In.

#### TEACHING TIE-IN

Look at our snack that looks like the sea! Who made the sea and all the animals that live there? *Take responses.* Yes, God did! Have you ever been to the sea (ocean)? *Take responses.* Can you imagine making that from nothing? *Pause for responses.* Well, that's what God did. He made *everything* from *nothing*. Wow!

Let's thank God for being the maker of the sea and all things, and then let's eat our Seascape Snacks!

## Day 2

### Mini Flapjacks

Gather a flapjack mix and the ingredients that are listed on the box. Prepare the mix. Making sure to keep away from children, heat a skillet or griddle and coat with pan spray, butter, or oil. Drop the mix onto the hot surface one tablespoon at a time. Cook on the first side until small bubbles start to form or until they are golden brown on the underside. Flip and repeat. Serve several mini flapjacks per child, with or without syrup. The kids can pick them up and eat them if you aren't using syrup.



Find [these items](#) in your teacher kit. Find [these items](#) in your digital resources.

#### TEACHING TIE-IN

Today we're having mini flapjacks. Mini means "little" and flapjacks mean "pancakes." The words "mini flapjacks" remind me of our animal pal today. Does anyone know who our animal pal is? *Take responses.* Yes, it's Flip the flapjack octopus. A flapjack octopus is a mini octopus that lives deep, deep down in the bottom of the ocean where it's very dark. But even if we can't see them, God can! God knows where everyone and everything is, and God is right there with them! God is right here with you, too. He's always with you!

Let's thank God that he's always with us, and for these mini flapjacks, and then let's eat.

### Omni Os Cereal

Choose a dry cereal that is in the shape of Os and serve to the kids.



#### TEACHING TIE-IN

What letter of the alphabet does our snack look like? *Take responses.* Yes, it looks like the letter O. Let's make an O with our fingers. *Do so.* An O reminds me of a big word that has to do with God. The word is *omni*. Let's say that together. *Do so.* Omni means "all." Let's point all around. *Do so.* God is omnipresent—all present. He is with everyone all the time. Now let's make strong man muscles. *Do so.* God is omnipotent—all powerful. Nothing is too hard for God to do. Now let's point to our brains. *Do so.* God is also omniscient—all knowing. He knows everything—even the future! God is almighty!

Let's thank God for being so mighty, and then let's eat our tasty Omni Os.

## Day 3

### King's Crown

Serve each child a small iced vanilla cake donut that has colorful sprinkles (representing jewels) on it. As usual, share the Teaching Tie-In before eating.

#### TEACHING TIE-IN

This reminds me of a crown. Who wears a crown? *Take responses.* Yes, a king. Can you think of someone who is a king? *Take responses,* and share that God





is the ultimate king. He is the king over the land, the sea, the sky—absolutely everything. He is the King of kings.

Let's thank God our king for the crown snack, and then we'll eat!

## Shark Teeth

See page 17 in this guide for directions and an illustration, but serve a smaller portion. Serve with or without the powdered sugar.

### TEACHING TIE-IN

Look at our snack. We're pretending they're shark teeth because our animal pal today is Clark the \_\_\_\_\_. Take responses. Yes, the shark! The great white shark. Great white sharks are called the king of the sea, but God is the king of everything—the sea, the land, the sky, and absolutely everything. God is the ruler and he is in charge.

Let's thank God our king for the Shark Teeth snack, and then we'll eat!

## Day 4

### Apple Inner Tubes

Use an apple corer to cut the middle out of an apple, then slice horizontally to make apples into inner tube rings. Serve two or three per child.



### TEACHING TIE-IN

Have any of you ever been in an inner tube in the water? Take responses. What shape is an inner tube? Take responses. Yes, a circle. And what shape are our apple inner tubes? Take responses. Yes, they're circles! Does a circle ever end? Take responses. No, it goes round and round, and on and on. And guess what? God's love for you never ends, either. It goes on and on! God the Father loves you so much he sent his Son, Jesus!

Let's thank God for his love and for this treat, and then we'll eat.

### Sandy Stars

Gather a tube of sugar cookie dough, a bag of white chocolate chips, and a box of graham crackers. Slice the dough into circles, cut them into star shapes using a cookie cutter, and bake according to package directions. Crush the graham crackers like fine sand using either a zippered baggie or a food processor. Melt the chocolate chips in a small bowl over simmering water in a saucepan.

Next, dip the top side of the cookies in the white chocolate and then in the graham cracker crumbs. Place on parchment paper to dry. (You may want to put them in the fridge to speed up the process.)



### TEACHING TIE-IN

Today we're eating Sandy Stars. God is so big and so great that he made everything from the farthest stars to the tiniest bugs. Have you ever stood outside at night and looked at the stars? Take responses. It's amazing to think that the maker of the stars also made you and loves you. He loves you so much he sent his Son, Jesus, to die for you.

Let's thank God for being such a loving and caring God, and then let's eat our Sandy Stars.

## Day 5

### Macaw Bites

For a super simple idea, just cut up banana slices and call them Macaw Banana Bites.

Or, for a different option, gather apples, white chocolate chips, sprinkles, and lollipop sticks. Cut each apple into eight wedges, removing all seeds. Insert a lollipop stick into each. Meanwhile, melt the chocolate by placing a small saucepan with one inch of water on the stove top. Turn the heat on medium. On top of the pan, place a small glass or metal bowl with the white chocolate chips in it, and melt the chocolate. Next, dip the apples in the melted chocolate and sprinkle with candy sprinkles. Place on parchment paper to cool and set.



### TEACHING TIE-IN

Do you know what a macaw is? Take responses. It's a bird. Macaws live on tropical islands, and they are known to have been trusty friends to pirates. Do you have any friends you love and trust? Take responses. Did you know that the friend you can trust more than anyone else in the world is God? He's the best friend anyone can ever have. He'll never leave you!

Let's thank God for being the most trusted friend we can have, and then we'll eat our Macaw Bites.

### Hidden Treasure Treats

See page 25 in this guide for directions and an illustration, but serve a smaller portion.

### TEACHING TIE-IN

What do you see hidden in the "sand"? Take responses. Yes, it's a little pretend treasure chest. What might you find in a treasure chest? Take responses. Can you think of any treasure that's worth more than God? Take responses. Nothing is even close to being as great as God. God is the greatest treasure by far!

Let's thank God for this food and for being the greatest treasure, and then we'll eat.

Find these items in your teacher kit. Find these items in your digital resources.



DAY 1

# One and Only Bread

## Ingredients (16 servings)

- ☐ 1 tube of Pillsbury® bread dough
- ☐ ¼ c. flour for dusting
- ☐ Optional: 2 T. melted butter or oil
- ☐ Optional: Salt or seasoning of choice

## Tropical Punch Drink Ingredients

- ☐ Store bought tropical punch drink, such as Hawaiian Punch®

## Basic Supplies

- ☐ Number 1 cookie cutter, approximately 3 inches long
- ☐ Rolling pin
- ☐ Parchment paper
- ☐ Baking sheet
- ☐ Optional: Pastry brush
- ☐ Spatula
- ☐ Small paper plates, napkins, and cups, 1 of each per child

## Pre-prep

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees with a rack in the middle.
2. Open the bread dough and roll it out on a floured surface until it's ¼ inch thick.
3. Using the cookie cutter, cut out the dough into the shape of a number 1.
4. Optional: Brush with oil or melted butter and sprinkle on salt or seasonings of your choice.
5. Place on a parchment lined baking sheet and bake until golden brown, about 13–15 minutes.
6. Let cool and serve on a small paper plate.

## Teaching Tie-In

What number is our snack in the shape of? Take responses. Yes, a 1. What's the number 1 got to do



with God? Take responses. The Bible makes it clear there's only one God. Read Psalm 86:10 or Isaiah 44:6.

We might hear many different things from school or movies or books about who and what can be gods, and what these gods are like. But the idea that there are many gods and we can choose which god we want is not true. There is only one God, the God of the Bible. One and done. And this one God is so amazing he can't be contained in a shrine or box or statue. When you see images of false gods, it's just a person's attempt to make a god, but think about it—*people* can't make *gods*! No, the one true God has always existed, and there is no other.

Pray to thank God for the One and Only Bread and eat.

While eating, share the Conversation Starters and WOW Facts about God that are found below.

## Conversation Starters

- Can you think of something teeny tiny God created?
- Can you think of something humongous God created?
- Can you think of something orange God created? Green? Red? Blue?

Find [these items](#) in your teacher kit. Find [these items](#) in your digital resources.



## WOW Facts

- When we think of God's greatness, we often think of space and big animals, like the blue whale or dinosaurs. But God made all the tiny stuff, too, and that shows God's greatness as well! Using an electron microscope that magnifies things up to 100 million times, we can see the tiniest of creatures and how intricately designed and complex they are. God is the maker and ruler over all things big and small. Wow!
- Aren't you glad God made a colorful world? God made a beautiful world, full of so many different amazing colors. I wonder if we will recognize more colors in heaven? Wow!

Another option is to check with the Lighthouse Lesson teachers before VBS begins to see if they plan to do

small group time during Lighthouse Lessons. If not, ask them for the Day 1 Discussion Sheets and chat through those during snack time. They have good conversation starters.

## Tip Corner

- Check out the Super Simple Options, the Healthy Options, and the Toddler Options. Any of these can work for Day 1 or other days or meetings. They are all yummy and lots of fun!
- For individual drinks any day, substitute juice boxes, juice pouches, or water bottles that are labeled "*Sparkling Agua*" or "*Ocean Water*." See the Digital Resources for a pattern. Individual drinks are more expensive but require no prep and often no cups. Tropical themed drinks are particularly fun, such as Capri Suns®.

## Day 1 Overview

### God is ... GR+8

Lesson Focus		Bible Passage	
God is GREAT! He is the one and only God, the awe-inspiring Creator.		Paul in a City of False Gods Acts 17:16-34	
Treasured Verse	Animal Pal	Cool Contest	
Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. Psalm 145:3	Camo the Chameleon	Swedish Fish Guessing Game	
Deep Sea Science and Crafts	Tropical Treats	Ride the Tide Games	
Experiments: Rainbow Water and Mystery Color Crafts: Tropical Tree and Glass Gem Magnets	One and Only Bread Seascape Snacks	Island Ambush Island Olympics	

Find these items in your teacher kit. Find [these items](#) in your digital resources.



# Seascape Snacks

## Ingredients (24 servings)

- ☐ 2 large boxes blue gelatin
- ☐ 3–4 gummy fruit snacks per child (shaped like sea creatures—see Tip Corner)
- ☐ 10-oz. container whipped topping

## Tropical Punch Drink Ingredients

- ☐ Store bought tropical punch drink, such as Hawaiian Punch®

## Basic Supplies

- ☐ 5-oz. clear plastic tumbler cups, 1 per child
- ☐ Mixing bowl
- ☐ Measuring cups
- ☐ Mixing spoon or spatula
- ☐ Piping bags or zippered baggies and scissors
- ☐ Paper and marker to write number from Teaching Tie-In, and gallon-sized container for a visual
- ☐ Napkins, spoons, and cups, 1 of each per child

## Pre-prep

1. Prepare the gelatin according to package directions by mixing the gelatin with boiling water and then cold water.
2. Pour about half the liquid gelatin into clear tumbler cups until each is approximately half full. Chill in the refrigerator until set, about four hours.
3. Hold the remaining gelatin at room temperature so it doesn't set.
4. Place two or three sea creature gummy snacks into the solidified gelatin, then top each cup with some of the remaining liquid gelatin.
5. Return to the refrigerator and let set again.
6. Before serving, put the whipped topping into piping bags or zippered baggies that have the corner snipped off. Pipe a small amount on top of each gelatin cup to represent waves. Add one more gummy to the top of the waves.



7. Write the number mentioned in the Teaching Tie-In on a piece of paper. Put it with the gallon-sized container.

## Teaching Tie-In

Today's snack looks like a mini ocean with sea creatures, water, and waves. Did you know the ocean has enough water in it to fill this number (show the number 352,670,000,000,000,000) of gallon-sized containers? Show the gallon-sized container. Wow, that's a lot of water! That's such a big number, it's challenging to even know how to say it! (It's about 353 million, million, million.)

The incredible thing is that God knows where every one of those gallons of water is, how many drops are taken out when someone fills a sand pail with water, how many drops land in the sand when someone spills some, and how many drops are added into the ocean when it rains. Wow!

Now think of this: If every gallon of water in the ocean—that great big number—stands for a word to describe God, like gallon one stands for God is great, the next gallon stands for God is loving, and so forth, guess what? There wouldn't be enough gallons to describe God! He's that great! Wow!

Thank God for the Seascape Snacks and eat.

Find [these items](#) in your teacher kit. Find [these items](#) in your digital resources.



While eating, share the Conversation Starters and WOW Facts that follow.

## Conversation Starters

- Have you ever been to the ocean?
- Can you think of any sea creatures God made?
- Do you like going to museums? Did you know the ocean is the world's largest museum—by far? There's more stuff from history in the sea than in all the world's museums combined. How, you say? Well, think of all those shipwrecks, torpedoed submarines, treasures, and other items that end up at the bottom of the sea. That's a lot of stuff!

## WOW Facts

- Sunlight doesn't reach all the way to the bottom of the ocean, but God designed the sea creatures that live deep down in the darkest parts to be able to survive without sunlight. Many of them don't even have eyes, like jellyfish and squid, because they don't need them. Wow!
- Other deep sea creatures have built-in lights, called bioluminescence, that God designed so they are able to light up their dark area. God thought of everything. Wow!

Another option is to check with the Lighthouse Lesson teachers before VBS begins to see if they plan to do small group time during Lighthouse Lessons. If not, ask them for the Day 1 Discussion Sheets and chat through those during snack time. They have good conversation starters.

## Tip Corner

- We used Kroger Sea Creatures Fruit Snacks® for our gummy sea creatures, but any gummy sea creature can work. There were about 60 in a box.
- If you have time, the kids can pipe whipped topping on the top of their snacks.

## Super Simple Options

**Pre-packaged Blue Gelatin Cups**—Purchase individual gelatin cups at the grocery store and add a little whipped topping and/or sea creature gummies to the top. Use the same Teaching Tie-In that's on p. 11.

**Chameleon Tongues**—Purchase Fruit by the Foot® in rolls, preferably the kind that has a variety of colors on each roll. Give one to each child and discuss how a chameleon's tongue is long and rolled, and how a chameleon changes colors like this Fruit by the Foot® does. God, however, does not change ever, in any way.

**Pretzel Rod 1**—Purchase a bag of pretzel rods and give each person one. Ask what number the pretzel rod represents. Discuss how there is only one God.

## Healthy Options

**Salty Palms**—This cute and nutritious snack requires green apples and 2-inch-long, chunky pretzel sticks. The pretzel stick represents the trunk of the palm tree. Place a few apple slices at the top to represent the leaves of the tree. See illustration on page 29.

You may want to “cement” the leaves in place at the top of the tree using a little cream cheese or vanilla frosting.

**Sunshine Whip**—Stir together a 32-oz. pineapple Greek yogurt and a 14-oz. can of crushed pineapple. Put the mixture in the freezer. Occasionally stir with a fork to break up the ice, creating crushed ice. Spoon the mixture into small, clear tumbler cups and garnish with a wedge of pineapple. Serve with a yellow spoon. See illustration on page 29.

## Toddler Options

Check the Toddler Snacks on page 7 for two daily suggested snacks with Teaching Tie-Ins and illustrations. Some are new suggestions, and some are revisions of these snacks.

If you decide to serve any of the options written in the rest of the book, make sure they are safe for toddlers and are not choking hazards.

Find [these items](#) in your teacher kit. Find [these items](#) in your digital resources.