

LIGHTHOUSE LESSONS

JUNIOR

TEACHER 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.

JUNIOR

Course Overview

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
God is . . .	GR+8	ALL+MY+T	RUE+LEARN-N	E+MAN+YOU+L	TRUSTY-Y+WORD-D+THEE
Medallion of the Day	Number 1	Letter O	Crown	Heart	Diamond
Lighthouse Lesson Focus	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, good Savior who came to earth.	God is TRUSTWORTHY! He is our rock. We should praise, thank, worship, adore, and live for him.
Bible Passages	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
Treasured Verses	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
Apologetics Focus	There's only one God as revealed in the Bible. You can't make up a god of your own 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.
Animal Pals	Camo the Chameleon	Flip the Flapjack Octopus	Clark the Great White Shark	Jam the Immortal Jellyfish	Trusty the Macaw
Deep Sea Science	Rainbow Water Mystery Color	Can Crushing Diving Octopus	Diaper Duty Shark Float	Lava Lamps Sea Snakes	Salty or Fresh? Jewel Treasures
Deep Sea Crafts	Tropical Tree Glass Gem Magnets	Shell Necklace Splash Octopus	Wind Chime Great White Game	Mini Diorama Gospel Sand Art	God's Attribute Rock Seek and Find Treasure
Ride the Tide Games	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?
Tropical Treats	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
Cool Contests	Swedish Fish Guessing Game	Team Cheers	Dress-Up Day	God of Wonder Challenge	Mission Money Mania



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Junior Teacher Guide

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Printed in China.



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 oooohhh 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 repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. We believe VBS is a

great way to introduce them to God, as it is one of the biggest outreaches of the year for most churches.

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

Your Role

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

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

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 *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.

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.

Lighthouse 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.

Top 20 Teaching Tips for Teachers

1. Psalm 145:1 tells us to extol the Lord. “Extol” means to “enthusiastically praise.” Speak with awe, amazement, excitement, and joy when talking about the Lord. Your enthusiasm about our great God will be contagious!
2. 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!
3. 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.
4. In this guide:
 - » Teaching Tips are marked with a ★.
 - » Materials for each activity are listed next to the activity.
 - » The “teacher says” portion is bolded.
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 live on a tropical island. Think casual island clothes (but not swimsuits). Check the VBS catalog for a cool island shirt and hat for teachers. Sunglasses or a lei can complete the 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 something 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-in. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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 from Psalm 145, an incredible psalm extolling God.
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. Understanding how God has wired different age groups can help us be more effective in teaching and interacting with them.

First, you'll see characteristics of children in general and then characteristics of Juniors (ages 9–12 years) specifically.

Characteristics of Children

Children have some common characteristics.

- They are born sinners.
- 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 Juniors

Physical Characteristics

Juniors can vary widely as they grow, with some having a growth spurt that launches them into puberty. (This can make them get tired easily.) Height, weight, and physical maturity can be all across the board. They're continuing to grow in physical abilities. Some are becoming known for athletic abilities. Juniors enjoy going places and doing interesting things. They enjoy games and competitions.

Takeaways for Us

- Don't comment on physical appearance, such as how tall someone is. Juniors can feel sensitive and awkward about their bodies.
- Make sure to help each child realize how special and uniquely created by God he or she is. Some have giftings/talents physically, some musically, some academically,

etc. They need to be assured that they are God's masterpiece, created exactly as they are for a special purpose.

- Some love being active, and some don't, but it's good to keep them involved and moving.

Emotional/Social Characteristics

Juniors can't wait to grow up. They look up to teenagers/young adults. They like challenges and may develop interests and hobbies, although they're self-conscious about their abilities and failures. They're becoming more independent and can handle responsibilities. They enjoy small group discussion with peers and close friends. They're greatly influenced by their friends and want to be accepted. They look to friends for information and advice on issues. They like humor and jokes but may use sarcasm. As they head into puberty, they may experience mood swings.

Takeaways for Us

- Make sure the teens and young adults in their VBS world are good role models.
- Don't tear down Juniors or resort to sarcasm. Be an encourager, be a good listener, and be patient with them.
- Incorporate small group discussion into learning, and do things that allow groups or pairings.
- Be careful to walk worthy—act and speak in godly ways.

Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

Juniors are beginning to think abstractly and are asking many questions, which they want good answers for. They have a much longer attention span than younger children. Their reading and memorization skills are improving. They're developing their views on current issues and often want to associate themselves with their parents' belief system. They spot inconsistencies in what people do versus what they say. Juniors enjoy serving and caring for others.

Takeaways for Us

- Ask thought-provoking spiritual questions. They are thinking and like to talk. Be there for them as a safe person to bounce thoughts and ideas off of.
- Listen well, and pray with them.
- Some children read better than others. Be careful about asking children to read out loud unless they volunteer or you know they can read well.
- Allow them to sometimes act out lessons. Most Juniors enjoy this active involvement.
- Give them opportunities to be involved in mission/serving projects.

- Challenge them to ask God to help them grow in their love for God and his Word. Help them set up Bible reading plans, and encourage them to memorize passages of Scripture.
- Make sure to walk the walk and not just talk the talk. They can spot inconsistencies, so it's important to walk worthy.
- Show interest in each child, helping them sense your care and interest in them.
- Be careful to speak accurately and truthfully, show care and respect for your Bible, and help them see your love for it and for the Lord.

Lighthouse Lessons

At Lighthouse Lessons, kids will have fun tracking down the one true, amazing, beyond-description God. 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 mystery riddle or activity to get the lesson started.

Teach It! (25–30 minutes): The Bible teaching and apologetics content is presented during this time in creative, appealing ways.

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, group guide) to help on any day you can use an extra set of hands.

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.

Sample Schedule

Time	Group One	Group Two	Group Three
9:00–9:15	Islander Assembly—Opening: Large Meeting Area (Everyone Together)		
9:20–10:00	Lighthouse Lessons	Deep Sea Science and Crafts	Ride the Tide Games and Tropical Treats
10:05–10:45	Ride the Tide Games and Tropical Treats	Lighthouse Lessons	Deep Sea Science and Crafts
10:50–11:30	Deep Sea Science and Crafts	Ride the Tide Games and Tropical Treats	Lighthouse Lessons
11:35–Noon	Islander Assembly—Closing: Large Meeting Area (Everyone Together)		

Memory Verse Songs

We have partnered with Seeds Family Worship (contemporary, ESV, 11-8-069) and Majesty Music (traditional, KJV, 11-8-063) 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 (11-8-070 or 11-8-064). 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).

Treasure Maps: These maps of *Mystery Island* come with daily medallion stickers. Use these everyday to review if you have time, or wait until the last day (as written in the curriculum). Check with your director to see if she would like to give these to the kids during another rotation.

- ESV—11-8-078, pack of 10
- KJV—11-8-140, pack of 10

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 group guides 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.

- Junior ESV—11-8-071, pack of 10
- Junior KJV—11-8-132, pack of 10

Trail Guides: These fun, interactive booklets feature the daily memory verses, animal pals, stickers, and a place to stamp (11-8-093) 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.

- Junior/Primary ESV—11-8-091, pack of 10
- Junior/Primary KJV—11-8-137, pack of 10

Bookmarks: These can be passed out at the end of class or at the end of the day.

- Gospel—11-8-076, pack of 10—Day 4
- Attributes of God—11-8-077, pack of 10—Any day

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 group guides can pass out one of these to each student on the last day of class at dismissal. 11-8-075, pack of 10

Special Needs

The *Special Needs Teacher Supplement* (11-8-053) can help you accommodate and modify these lessons for those who need it, either in your regular classroom or in a self-contained classroom.

Tips for Managing a Group of Kids

Kids are fun, and kids have energy! Whether you are a group guide, a classroom teacher, or an assistant, be prepared to confidently lead them with attention getters, proactive tips, and classroom control ideas. Check the Digital Resources and the *Helper Handbook* for specifics.

Decorating Decisions

A colorful and engaging environment helps children learn better, remember more, and leave with happy memories. So be creative, and use the tools and ideas in this section to capture the imagination of the kids with your classroom decorations.



Key Decorating Elements

To serve as a backdrop for the teaching, the *Mystery Island* classroom backdrop features a tropical island scene. Mounted on the walls adjacent to the backdrop are the teaching, memory verse, and animal pal posters.

Lighthouse

Use 2x2 boards and corrugated cardboard to create a simple three-sided lighthouse. Begin with the base, making a tapered frame (with 2x2s) where the top and bottom are square but the bottom is slightly larger than the top. Then cover three sides with corrugated cardboard painted white with horizontal black and red stripes.

Next, make the light section. Cut two corrugated cardboard squares with dimensions identical to the top of the base and four 2x2 pieces tall enough to accommodate the lantern. The 2x2s will serve as upright corner posts with the cardboard squares attached to them top and bottom. Paint the corner posts black and the underside of the top

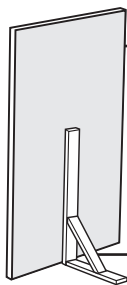
cardboard square yellow, red, or black. Wrap three sides of the light section with clear cellophane, then place it on top of the base. For a lantern, use a large oatmeal container painted yellow, or a real flashing light.

Finally, construct a roof for the lighthouse. Cut four identical corrugated cardboard triangles with bases that match the length and width of the light section. Then paint them yellow, red, or black, and attach their bases to each side of the light section with their points meeting at the top.

Seascape

The seascape panel can be made from corrugated cardboard or foam insulation board. The size of the panel is determined by the amount of classroom space that you have.

On the panel, draw a straight pencil line across the middle. This will be your horizon line with the sky above and the ocean below. Paint the sky a solid “sky blue” color, but for the sea, use two shades (lighter and darker) of



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

greenish-blue ocean colors, using a two-color painting method. For this technique, use a single standard size roller and pick up the lighter and darker shades at the same time (both colors on the roller, side-by-side). You'll get some minor mixing of colors in the two paint trays as a result, but it's not a problem. Then use a generally horizontal stroke to blend, but not totally mix, the colors. Two tones on the roller will result in lighter and darker areas of color. After the ocean colors, add a few reflective white patches on the sea using a light horizontal stroke with a brush. Paint the horizon line white to provide contrast between the sky and the sea, and then, create some clouds by sponging some white onto the sky.

You can display your panel in a variety of ways. It 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.

Treasure Chest

Because a treasure chest is used daily in the teaching, you will need to have one on your set. Spray paint a large foam cooler brown. Then add strips of black duct tape for straps and gold thumb tacks for rivets. Have beaded necklaces hanging out of it.



Other Props, Tips, and Ideas

- Place a rug or raised platform in front of your backdrop to create a stage effect.
- Palm trees are a perfect accent piece. See [How to Make a Pair of Palm Trees](#) and clip art images on the Digital Resources.
- Add painted cardboard rocks, wave swirls, sand dunes, and tufts of grass.
- Add two or three seagulls to your ocean scene. See the Digital Resources for clip art images. Use fishing line to hang them from the ceiling.

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.

- Add a thin (½-in.) black border to your painted props. This helps them stand out better and makes the colors appear more vibrant.
- Because corrugated cardboard tends to curl when only one side is painted, first apply a quick single coat of paint to the back.
- Lay beach towels on the floor for the kids to sit on.

Classroom Scene Setter


As a quick and easy alternative to creating your own classroom backdrop, a scene setter is available for purchase (11-8-126) from the Resource Catalog. Simply mount it to cardboard or foam insulation sheets, using clear packing tape or staples, or attach it directly to the wall with sticky tack, mounting putty, or Mavalus® tape. Another alternative for easy cleanup and wall protection is to apply strips of painter's tape to the wall, then put double-sided tape over the painter's tape, and attach the scene setter to the double-sided tape.



Resource Posters

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

Check out [Pinterest.com/AnswersVBS](https://www.pinterest.com/AnswersVBS) for colorful photos of decorations from our test churches!
Visit [YouTube.com/AnswersVBS](https://www.youtube.com/AnswersVBS) for how-to decorating videos!



DAY 1

GR+8

GOD IS GREAT!

TODAY'S MEDALLION

Number 1

BIBLE PASSAGE

Paul in a City of False Gods
Acts 17:16–34

ANIMAL PAL

Camo the Chameleon

LESSON FOCUS

God is GREAT! He is the one and only
God, the awe-inspiring Creator.

APOLOGETICS FOCUS

There's only one God as revealed in the Bible—you
can't make up a god of your own choosing.

TREASURED VERSE

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and
his greatness is unsearchable. Psalm 145:3

Today's Lesson at a Glance

INTRODUCE IT!

- Day 1 Mystery Clue
 - Option 1—Hide Map in the Room
 - Option 2—Mystery Riddle to Find Map

TEACH IT!

- Part 1: Acts 17
 - Option 1—Live Monologue
 - Option 2—Reading from the Bible
- Part 2: Acts 17 Continued
- Part 3: Small Group Time
- Part 4: Review Game
 - Option 1—Hang Ten
 - Option 2—Lightning Round

APPLY IT!

- Part 1: Treasured Verses
- Part 2: Go and Do

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read Acts 17:16–34 several times.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials as outlined in the brown pre-prep text.
- Visit AnswersVBS.com/mifaq for more information on there being only one God—the God of the Bible.
- Pray.

Devotion 1

God Is Great

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Proverbs 9:10

At *Mystery Island*, we're encouraging our kids to discover the one true God. But . . . how do we know the one true God even exists? It's a question that has crossed the mind of every believer at some point—sure, I believe in God, but how do I know the God I love and serve is truly the one true God?

Before we answer that question, let's go a bit further by asking another question: how can we know anything? How do we even know to question the surety of God's existence? Here's the answer: apart from the perfect, truthful, unchanging, eternal God of the Bible, "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3) and from whom come knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 9:10), we cannot know anything.

Think about it.

If, as some suggest, there is no god—no ultimate standard of truth and knowledge—and we are simply the product of random processes operating on chemicals over time, then the thoughts in our brains are nothing more than the product of random chemical interactions. How could we know anything?

If, as others suggest, our universe is ruled by a god who is not eternal (Mormonism, *History of the Church*, vol. 6, ch. 14, p. 305–6) or who is deceptive (Islam, *Koran* 3:54, 8:30), how could we be sure that what we know is true today will still be true tomorrow?

The one true God of the Bible has created each person in his image and given us the ability to think rationally, to question thoughtfully, to know truth fully. And he has revealed himself to everyone so that no one is without excuse (Romans 1:18–21). Those who deny his existence or seek to change him into a false version of himself are

willfully ignorant, suppressing the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18).

We can know the one true God exists because we have the ability to know in the first place. And we can praise him that he freely gives wisdom to those who ask for it (James 1:5). This week, let's be quick to seek wisdom from the one true God as we teach our children to know the one true God and embrace him fully.

May we be thankful as the Puritans were, not only that we can know things, but also that the one true God has enabled us to know him.

Glorious God,
I bless thee that I know thee.
I once lived in the world, but was ignorant of its
Creator,
was partaker of thy providences, but knew not the
Provider,
was blind while enjoying the sunlight,
was deaf to all things spiritual, with voices all around
me,
understood many things, but had no knowledge of
thy ways,
saw the world, but did not see Jesus only.
O happy day, when in thy love's sovereignty
thou didst look on me, and call me by grace.
Grant that I may always weep to the praise of mercy
found,
and tell to others as long as I live,
that thou art a sin-pardoning God,
taking up the blasphemer and the ungodly,
and washing them from their deepest stain.

—(Excerpt from "The Great Discovery"
in *The Valley of Vision*)

GOSPEL 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 Mystery Clue (5–10 minutes)

Pre-prep: Gather your tropical island costumes, which you'll wear all week. Either buy a fake treasure chest or make one out of a foam cooler as directed on page 10, and put the Bible in it, bookmarked at Acts 17. Cut out and laminate the **DAY 1 LARGE MEDALLION** and place it in the treasure chest. Laminate and hide the **TREASURE MAP POSTER** according to the directions for Option 1 or Option 2 below.

Greet the islanders at the door as they come in. Once they are settled, begin with the following.

Teacher 1: Aloha, islanders, and welcome to Lighthouse Lessons. I'm ____, the lighthouse keeper, and this is my assistant, ____. Have you ever seen a lighthouse? *Take answers.* Lighthouses are important because they keep ships and sailors from losing their way in dangerous seas. And keepers of the lighthouse have a huge job. They keep the light always going, and they sometimes rescue stranded people in the water.

Teacher 2 (or Teaching Assistant): Here at *Mystery Island*, we want to keep the light of God's Word shining brightly so you can know the way through life. With that in mind, let's dive right in with an activity called First Word. We'll say a word or phrase, then you shout out the first thing that comes to mind. Ready? Here's the first one: tropical island. *Take answers, then continue with lizard, sun, sand, lobster, pirate, ocean.*

Teacher 1: Here's the last one. For this one, don't shout out your answer, but just think of it inside your head. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the word *God*? *Give them a few seconds to think silently, then ask volunteers to share what they thought of.*

Teacher 2: Some people think of God as the big guy upstairs who is like a casual friend, or as a cosmic cop who's going to catch you breaking the law and hit you with a lightning bolt, or like a genie in a bottle who's ready to serve you and grant your wishes. But we can't make the one true God into who we want him to be. He is who he is. We'll be tracking down the truth about him in our Bibles to find out what he's really like. It matters more than anything, because what you believe about God is the most important thing about you. What you think about God matters more than what you like to do, what your personality is like, how smart or athletic you are, whom you live with, what you look like, or anything else. That's because your belief about God determines how you live your life and your eternity!

Teacher 1: I'm so excited to talk about this, because God is more important to me than anyone or anything else in the whole world. He's wonderful! Let's track down a clue about God to learn more about him.

Teacher 2: We'll need a treasure map to do so, so let's find it now!

Option 1—Hide Map in the Room

Before class, hide the **TREASURE MAP POSTER** in the room, in sight but barely. Without moving, the kids search with their eyes to find the map. When they've spotted it, have someone retrieve it, and the teacher can hang it up for all to see.

Option 2—Mystery Riddle to Find Map

Share a clue such as the following. Adjust to fit your situation.

Time to start. Time to think. Find the map where you get a drink.

- ☐ **Treasure Map Poster**, preferably laminated
- ☐ **Day 1 Large Medallion**, preferably laminated
- ☐ **Day 1 Animal Pal Poster**
- ☐ Bible or children's Bible
- ☐ Costumes for teachers (see #8 on page 5)
- ☐ Mounting putty or tape for hanging posters
- ☐ Treasure chest (see page 10 for directions)

★ You may want to adopt fun names like Surfin' Sarah, Captain Karl, Luau Lindsey, or Flip Flop Frank.

★ 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 beachy stickers.

★ The Bible and mounting putty are usually listed just once a day, but you will need to use them throughout the lesson.



★ Remember to take the large medallion off and rehide or rehang the poster before each rotation each day.



- ☐ Paul in Athens Poster
- ☐ Supplies for the Paul monologue (see Pre-prep)
- ☐ Optional: Pictures of ancient Greece and Greek gods

★ This is where you may want to show pictures of ancient Greece.

The answer is the closest water fountain, where you have placed the **TREASURE MAP POSTER** ahead of time. The students go to the water fountain and carefully bring the map back. Choose a location near the classroom so this doesn't take long. The teacher hangs the map so all can see it.

Continue on after Option 1 or 2.

Teacher 1: Okay, now that we have the map, let's find the start of the trail on the map. *Do so.* Now, watching my finger, let's follow it from the start to the first stop. *Do so.* Where did I stop? *Take answers—Chameleon Cave.* Hmm . . . I wonder what we might find out about God at Chameleon Cave? Let me pull something out of this treasure chest to give us another clue. Open the treasure chest, and pull out the **DAY 1 LARGE MEDALLION** that will go on the **TREASURE MAP POSTER**. Show them what it is, and ask what they think the number one has to do with God. Place the medallion on the map in the Day 1 circle, using mounting putty (so it can be taken off for the next rotation). Then ask them to look carefully at Chameleon Cave and see if they can find a hidden clue there. They should see the number one hidden on the cave.

Teacher 2: Yes, the number 1 means there's only one God—the God of the Bible. Show the **DAY 1 ANIMAL PAL POSTER**. See if they can find the hidden number 1 on the **DAY 1 ANIMAL PAL POSTER**. Then continue. A lot of people have wrong views of God, but we can find out who he truly is by searching the Bible. Camo the chameleon is always changing, but the God of the Bible doesn't change. He was and is and always will be the same.

Teacher 1: We know God is completely true and can't lie (**Titus 1:2**). So since God is trustworthy and true, and the Bible is from him, then we know every word of the Bible is trustworthy and true, too. Let's pray, and then we'll get out our trustworthy Bible, the greatest treasure on earth. *Pray, and then pull out the Bible with care. Open to Acts 17, and share either Option 1 or 2 below.*

Teach It!

Part 1: Acts 17 (5 minutes)

Pre-prep: Choose which option you will do for the telling of Acts 17 and prepare accordingly. Each of these options can use pictures of ancient Greece and ancient Greek gods to enhance the sharing of the account. Search online for images, and make sure to use images of Greek gods that are modestly dressed. Someone (the second teacher perhaps) can hold the pictures up at the appropriate times. Option 1 needs a willing actor in a Bible-time costume and the **PAUL IN ATHENS SCRIPT** below. (A Bible-time costume can be as simple as a bathrobe.) Option 2 needs a Bible.

Option 1—Live Monologue

Find someone to play Paul, learn the script below, and share the Acts account expressively as a first person narrative.

Before he begins, show the islanders where this account is found in Scripture.

PAUL IN ATHENS SCRIPT

Grace and peace to you! I'm Paul, a servant of the Lord here in ancient times. I've been traveling around starting churches and telling people about our amazing God and what Jesus, the Son of God, did for us on the cross.

In my travels, I arrived in a city called Athens, which is in Greece. I decided to walk around the city, and as I did, I started to feel very upset inside, because everywhere I went, I saw idols. Do you know what an idol is? *Take answers.*

An idol is an image or statue of a false god. It is something that we love or worship instead of God. The Greeks have many false gods that are made by the people. Sadly, the people worship these idols instead of the one true God. Supposedly, these gods live

far away on Mount Olympus. They hide from men, and you never know how they may react. Listen as I tell you about a few of them.

One is called *Cronos*. He is said to have hurt his father and swallowed his own children so they wouldn't become too powerful and take his throne away from him.

Another is *Zeus*. He is said to be king of the Greek gods. His symbol is the lightning bolt, because he supposedly throws them down to earth in fits of anger. He's supposed to be the most powerful of the Greek gods.

Nike is said to be the goddess of victory. She wants to win so much she's willing to be unfair and cheat.

And let's not forget *Poseidon*. He is said to be the god of the sea. He sinks ships or drowns people on a whim if he wants to. He's moody and unpredictable. You never know when he's going to whip up a storm because he's upset.

These are just a few of the many Greek gods I hear about here. Some have said it's easier to find a god in Athens than a man because there are false gods—idols—everywhere—thousands upon thousands.

Seeing all these idols upset me, because there's only one true God, and I want everyone to know him! So I went to the synagogue, which is like the church Jewish people go to, and talked to them about the one true God.

Show the **PAUL IN ATHENS POSTER**. One day, some of the scholars of Athens asked me to come to a rocky spot high up in the city where they had their court. It's called the Areopagus (air-ee-OP-a-gus). They wanted to know what I'd been telling everybody.

So, I said to them: Men of Athens, I see you're very religious. For as I passed along, I saw your idols, and even found an altar that said: "To the unknown god." Well, what you're worshipping as unknown, I want to tell you about, because *God can be known*! He doesn't live in temples made by you, and he isn't a statue of gold or silver or stone, but he is God, the Creator of the world! He made it, and he owns it.

And the awesome thing is that if we seek the one true God, we'll find he's not far from us but wants to have a relationship with us. God sent his Son, Jesus, who lived and died and was raised from the dead, so we can have that relationship if we turn from our sins and seek him.

Well, when I finished telling the men this, how do you think they responded?
[Take answers.](#)

Some made fun of me, some said they'd like to hear more, and some came with me right then and there because they realized I was right—there really is only one true God!

You know, many people consider God a mystery, but he *can be known*, and he *wants to be known*. Of course, we'll never know everything about God—he's too big and great—but we can know him enough to understand who he is and to have a personal relationship with him. This week, I hope you will not only get to know *about* God, but get to *know* God.

Well, thanks for having me in. Shalom!

Option 2—Reading from the Bible

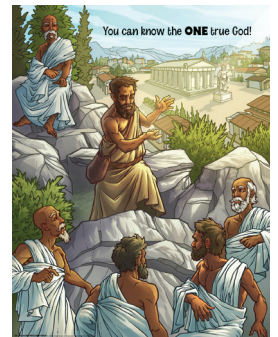
Open your Bible to Acts, and read or paraphrase the Acts 17:16–34 account. Read or tell it with emotion and interest. Add the following information about the Greek gods that Paul was seeing.

Do you know what an idol is? [Take answers.](#) An idol is an image or statue of a false god. It is something that we love or worship more than God. The Greeks had many images of false gods that were made by the people. Sadly, the people worshipped these idols instead of the one true God. Supposedly, these gods lived on Mount Olympus. They hid

★ This is where you may want to show pictures of Greek gods.

★ Some estimate up to 30,000 different gods were represented in Athens.

★ The Areopagus was a rocky spot high above the city and was also the name given to the court of judges, kind of like their Supreme Court. Paul may have been brought before this court.



★ This is where you may want to show pictures of Greek gods.

- ☐ Day 1 Animal Pal Poster
- ☐ False Gods Cards



from men, and you never knew how they would react. Listen as I tell you about a few of them.

Cronos is said to have hurt his father and swallowed his own children so they wouldn't become too powerful and take his throne away from him.

Zeus is said to be king of the Greek gods. His symbol was the lightning bolt because he supposedly threw them down to earth in fits of anger. He was supposed to be the most powerful of the Greek gods.

Nike is said to be the goddess of victory. She wanted to win so much she was willing to be unfair and cheat.

And let's not forget *Poseidon*. He is said to be the god of the sea. He sank ships or drowned people on a whim if he wanted to. He was moody and unpredictable. You never knew when he was going to whip up a storm because he was upset.

Part 2: Acts 17 Continued (5–10 minutes)

Pre-prep: Print and cut the **FALSE GODS CARDS**.

Teacher 1: Hey, have you ever heard of Nike or Zeus or those other false gods? *Discuss.* Did you notice they all had a lot of flaws? *See if they can remember any of the flaws.* Yes, they fought, got furious, were moody, cheated, and hurt and killed each other. That doesn't sound like a perfect god, does it? *Pause.* Only the one true God is *always* perfect. He never makes a mistake, or is moody, or fights with someone, or even changes one little bit, as Camo reminds us. *Show the DAY 1 ANIMAL PAL POSTER.* He's great, *and* he's good—all the time. This is the God of the Bible.

Teacher 2: But since the beginning, people have tried to make God fit into what they want him to be like, rather than accepting God for who he is. Today, we may not carve actual statues of idols and call them our gods, but there are many things that we may love more than we love God. These things are idols of our hearts. *Discuss some possible idols: sports, hobbies, video games, devices, TV, friends. When these things become more important to us than God is, they are idols.*

And another way we can worship an idol is by having an idea of what God is like that doesn't match up with what the Bible says. Maybe someone says there isn't any god. Or someone else says that his god heals every single person every time. Or someone thinks there's only one God, but he's mean. What kinds of things have you heard about God or gods? *Allow discussion about what they've seen or heard. This can make for a great conversation. Pass out some or all of the FALSE GODS CARDS (see below) to volunteers and have them stand and read them one at a time. Remind them that these are false ideas about God.*

- My god wants me to be rich and healthy. He's kind of like a genie granting me my wishes.
- I don't think God exists.
- God is mean, like a cosmic cop.
- Whatever you believe God is like is okay. We can all just decide for ourselves.
- Jesus is God's Son, but not God himself.
- My god is up in heaven, but he doesn't bother himself with my day-to-day life, so I can live however I want.
- God doesn't love me because I've done something bad.
- God is only going to let me into heaven if I'm a good person.

Teacher 1: These ideas about God don't line up with the Bible. So if you're wondering about the one true God, the Bible is the place to go to find out who he really is and what he's really like. When you hear things about God, you need to check what you

hear with what the Bible teaches about him. He's the one and only God of the universe. He *made* the universe! He is the great Creator.

Teacher 2: And he's much greater and better than you can imagine! In fact, *you've never once had a big enough thought about God*. Think of a person you would be super, super excited to meet and get to know. *Pause as they think*. Well, God is much, much, much better to know than any person on earth. God is great! Let's talk more about that in small groups.

If you don't do Small Group Time, share your personal testimony and excitement about God as outlined in Small Group Time question 4 now.

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

If small groups aren't feasible in your setting, discuss these questions together as a large group. Another option is to print the **DAY 1 DISCUSSION SHEETS** and give them to the group guides to discuss during snack time each day. These are good to fit in at some point in the VBS day.

Divide into small groups of 4–6 islanders with a group guide in each group. Adjust depending on how many guides and kids you have. Discuss some or all of the following questions from the **DAY 1 DISCUSSION SHEET**.

1. When we asked what comes into your mind when you think of God, what did you think of? *Take responses.*
2. How do you think you got that idea about God? *Take responses.* Where should we go to learn about who God really is? *Take responses and remind them we can't make God into who we want him to be, but we learn who he truly is from the Bible.*
3. Who is someone famous you would be super excited to get to know? *Take responses.*
4. Does God seem exciting to you? More exciting than that person in Question 3? Worth knowing? *Take responses and tell them how excited you are to share more this week about your awesome God. You may want to share your testimony here and the gospel. Your enthusiasm about God will be inspiring.*
5. What is something you've learned about God so far today? *Take responses.*

Part 4: Review Game (5–10 minutes)

Pre-prep: Choose an option below. Option 1 requires a 2x3 board that is 8 feet long. Cut the board into three pieces, 32 inches each. These will act as each team's "surfboard." One 8-ft. long board will be enough for three teams. If you have more teams than that, cut more boards. Option 2 needs a timer.

Option 1—Hang Ten

To play: First, explain that surfers use the phrase "hang ten" to describe how their 10 toes hang over the front of the surfboard when they're riding a wave. We're going to play "Hang Ten" by trying to get all 10 questions right while balancing on our "surfboards" for 10 seconds.

Divide into teams of 3–5 players per team. Each team answers every question. Ask the question, have teams quietly confer (so the other teams don't hear), and have them say the answer on the count of three. If they get it right, give them a point and let someone from the team try to "hang ten." In our version, they have to balance on their surfboard (the wooden board) for 10 seconds without falling off. If they do so successfully, their team gets another point. To add fun, have them stand in different ways on their boards with each correct question—crouching, standing on one foot, standing on the other foot, feet crossed on the board, etc. The team with the most points at the end of the time wins.

Option 2—Lightning Round

This version is quick and requires only a timer. It works any day you need an easy, speedy choice.

★ Gospel Opportunity


☐ Day 1 Discussion Sheets,
1 per small group

★ Gospel Opportunity

☐ OPTION 1: Several "surfboards" (see Pre-prep),
timer

☐ OPTION 2: Timer

★ Games will be a big hit with this age group! The test church kids enjoyed all the various games throughout the week.



To play: Put two minutes (120 seconds) on the timer. Quickly read a question and have everyone shout out their answer as soon as you finish reading the question. As soon as you hear someone say the right answer, affirm that answer, share the comments below, and move to the next question. For example, if the answer is “Camo the chameleon” and one or more shout out that answer, you say, “Yes! Camo,” and then read the accompanying comments before moving to the next question. The group as a whole wins if they get through all the questions in the time allotted. Today, they receive two minutes. Days 2–4 will be progressively more challenging, with less time than the day before. Day 5 has a slightly different timing format.

Questions

1. Who is today’s animal pal, and how does he remind us of God?

Answer: Camo the chameleon. Camo changes, but God doesn’t change. He is the same forever.

2. Who went to Athens, and why was he upset?

Answer: Paul. He was upset because the people there were making their own false gods called idols.

3. Name one of the false Greek gods.

Answer: Cronos, Zeus, Nike, or Poseidon.

4. What is an idol?

Answer: An idol can be a statue or something that monopolizes our time and thoughts, such as sports or hobbies. Anything that becomes more important to us than God is an idol.

5. Paul tells the people of Athens that God is the Creator. Name three things God has created.

Answers will vary.

6. True or false: Paul told the people that the unknown God they were worshipping could be known.

Answer: True.

7. Give an example of a view of God that isn’t correct. Here’s one to help you get started. My god wants me to be rich and healthy.

Answers will vary.

8. Where do we go to find out who God truly is and what he’s like?

Answer: The Bible. We find there he’s the one true God.

9. What is one true character quality you know about God? Here’s one to help you get started. God is love.

Answers will vary.

10. Our theme verse from Psalm 145 is: “I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.” “Extol” means “enthusiastically praise.” What is one thing you can think of to enthusiastically praise God for? Here’s one to help you get started. I praise you, God, because you made our brains that are way more amazing than the greatest computer.

Answers will vary.

Apply It!

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

Put a stamp in the trail guides, or have the group guides do so as the kids first arrive at VBS.

- ☐ Day 1 Student Guides, 1 per child
- ☐ Trail Guides, 1 per child
- ☐ Stamp for Trail Guides

Part 1: Treasured Verses

Pre-prep: For *Footprints in the Sand*, prepare the materials as described below in the Challenge section. Do the same for tomorrow's verse and the theme verse if you'll have time. Cue the memory verse song. Hang up the **DAY 1 MEMORY VERSE POSTER** and the **THEME VERSE POSTER**.

Today's Verse: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. Psalm 145:3

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: *Footprints in the Sand*—Make 15 footprint cutouts from paper with a word from the verse on each. Put them down in a path in order. You may want to tape these down. Move from one footprint to the next, saying a word as you step on each new footprint. Keep trying until you can go from the first to the last without a mistake. Provide one set per group of 3–5 kids, with kids lined up and taking turns.

Tomorrow's Verse: Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me? Jeremiah 32:27

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

- Look up Psalm 145 and read it out loud. Write down at least five great things these verses say about God. Now check Psalm 115:3–9. Write down at least five things about idols that show they aren't God.
- Pray and tell God how great he is and why you think so! Use Psalm 145 to guide you as you pray.
- Psalm 145 ends by saying that your mouth will speak the praise of the Lord. Find someone and tell him or her something about God's greatness that you learned today at VBS.
- Ask your parent or guardian to tell you the first thing that comes to mind when he thinks of God.
- Check AnswersVBS.com/mikids for more fun information!

Ask yourself this question: Why is my view of God important?

- ❑ Theme Verse Poster and Day 1 Memory Verse Poster
- ❑ Memory Verse Music CD and player
- ❑ Footprints in the Sand supplies for each group of 3–5 kids—15 footprint cutouts from card stock or construction paper (preferably laminated), plus more if using for other verses, and (optional) tape



★ End each day's Lighthouse Lesson time with prayer!

★ Stand at the door and say goodbye as the islanders leave.