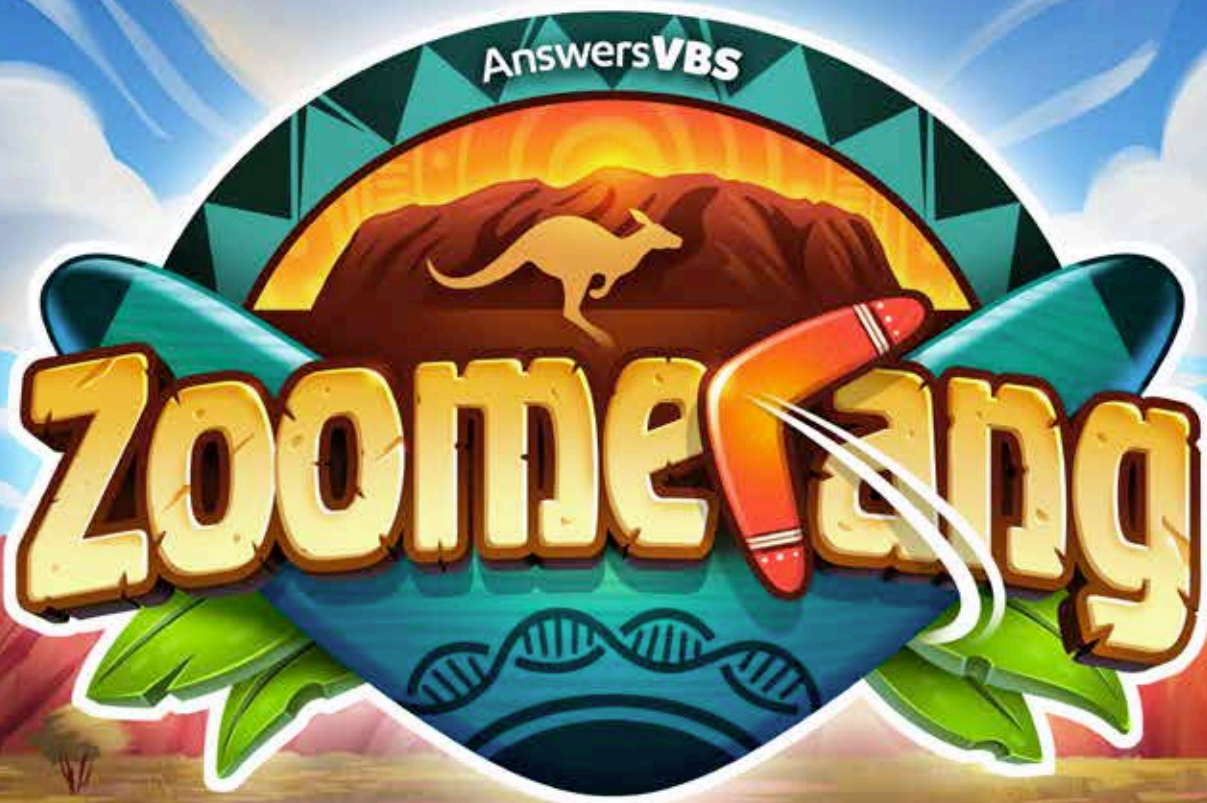


:DIRECTOR:



Returning to the Value of Life



.....
LEADER GUIDE

Director Guide



To make your job as VBS Director easier, make sure you

- ☑ read the *Director Guide* completely.
- ☑ check out the Digital Resources thoroughly.
- ☑ spread out all the materials that came in your kit.
- ☑ browse the other leader and teacher guides to become familiar with all aspects of this VBS.

Course

Day 1 The Beginning of Life Made in God's Image

Day 2 The Wonder of Life Made with Amazing Design

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Bible Passages | Creation of Man Genesis 1:26-28, 2:7-23 | Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Psalm 139:13-16 |
| Fair Dinkum (100% Genuine) Verses | Genesis 1:27 | Psalm 139:14 |
| Animal Pals | Jumpin' Jack the Kangaroo | Shimmer the Coral |
| Apologetics Focus | They can't make a monkey out of me! (Ape-Men Frauds) | God thought of everything! (Design Features of Our Bodies) |
| Turtle-y Terrific Crafts |   <p>Rockin' Dot Art</p> <p>Hop-a-Shot</p> |   <p>Crocs and Kangaroos Fitness Game</p> <p>Manta Ray Bookmark</p> |
| Turtle-y Terrific Science | Bonzer Boomerang | Fossil Handprint |
| Hoppin' Good Games | Jumpin' for Jesus Aussie Rules | Pick Your Brain |
| Top Koala-ty Treats |   <p>Outback Hat</p> <p>Funky Monkey</p> |   <p>Thumbprint Cookie</p> <p>Coral Cup</p> |
| Cool Contests | "Lollies" Guessing Game | Team Cheers |

Overview

Day 3 The Value of Life

Made with Worth

Jesus' Birth; Herod's Reaction
Matthew 1-2; Luke 2

Luke 6:31

Bill the Platypus

Be a defender of the defenseless!
(Protecting and Respecting Life)



Life Is Precious
Photo Frame

Playful Platypus

Stellar Stethoscope Toothpick Heartbeat

King of the Court
Let Me Help You



Celebration Cake

Baby in a Blanket

Dress-Up Day

Day 4 Eternal Life

Made for Relationship

Gospel Presentation
Select Scriptures

John 11:25

Paula the Koala

SMYLE! God loves you!
(Only One Way to Eternal Life)



Southern
Cross Ornament

Koala Pen

Let's Get "A-Lung" Blood Sample

SMYLE! Kickball
Animal Pal Dash



SMYLE! Pizza

Koala-fied Cookie

"Beaut" of a Bible Challenge

Day 5 The Purpose of Life

Made for a Reason

Jesus' Ascension; Left for a Reason
Acts 1:6-11; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Ephesians 2:10

Ringo the Dingo

All I want to do is live each day for you!
(Life Has Meaning and Purpose)



Straya Sun Pillow

Clay Echidna

Mining Cereal Fabulous
Fingerprints

Teamwork Towers
Dingo Fence



Dingo Puppy Chow

Boomerang Bread

Mission Money Mania

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Director Guide

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Printed in China.



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OVERVIEW

G'day, Mate!

G'day, mate! Are you ready for the trip of a lifetime as we zoom off to the Land Down Under? Be prepared to experience the jaw-dropping beauty of the Great Barrier Reef, the arid temperature of outback afternoons, the architectural marvels of Australia's modern cities, and the fascinating eucalypt forest, home of the koalas.

At *Zoomerang*, the newest Answers VBS, you'll marvel at the unforgettable wildlife, culture, and beauty of Australia while exploring the wonder and value of life, from the lives of preborn babies to eternal life in the kingdom of God.

Day 1: The Beginning of Life—As we explore the Genesis account that describes the creation of man and woman, we will find that people didn't evolve from ape-men. Instead, we'll discover that Jesus is the author of life.

Day 2: The Wonder of Life—We'll check out the words of King David, who expressed the wonder of being formed by God even before he was born. As we look at the special design features of our bodies, we'll learn that we're fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image.

Day 3: The Value of Life—The book of Matthew tells the account of Jesus' birth and the subsequent killing of Bethlehem's baby boys. As we look at this passage, we'll discover that God wants us to protect and respect all life—no matter how old, young, smart, or physically fit someone is. Every life is precious to God!

Day 4: Eternal Life—As we explore the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we will see there is only one way to have eternal life with God—through repenting of sin and believing in his Son.

Day 5: Using Your Life—When Jesus ascended into heaven, he left his followers with an important mission. We will take a closer look at the truth that we are created for a reason—to glorify God through the good works he has prepared for us to do. Our main mission is to tell others about our Creator and Savior, Jesus Christ!

From the minute our mates step off the plane onto Australian soil, they will find themselves on a trip they'll never forget! The day begins at the **Aussie Assembly**, the thrilling opening complete with entertaining welcomes, "aus-some" songs, a mission moment, and prayer. Then we're off to four fun rotation sites:

Land Down Under Lessons—the teaching time. Here, our mates will unearth the value and wonder of all life created by God and for God.

Top Koala-ty Treats—the snack spot. Mates will enjoy delicious tucker (food) at this much-anticipated stop.

Hoppin' Good Games—the recreation location. At this location, mates "av a go" (put in a good effort) at working together as teams and trying out various physical challenges.

Turtle-y Terrific Science and Crafts—the science, craft, music, mission, and memory verse spot. This location features a wide array of activities to choose from: engaging science experiments to explore, appealing crafts to invent, rockin' songs to sing, fun memory verse games to play, or mission time to explore (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 **Aussie Assembly** for the closing that includes more singing, a creature feature, contest results, and the greatly anticipated daily drama, which is a highlight of the kids' day. The drama features an Aussie game show called *Zoomerang*. Before the game show goes on the air each day, the kids will witness some drama between the staff members who work on the show. Then, when the announcer gives the countdown, the show begins, complete with kids being called from the audience to be contestants.

So grab your Aussie hat and "sunnies," and let's begin our fun-filled adventure at *Zoomerang*!

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 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

As the director of VBS, you are someone who possesses vision, organizational and people skills, and a heart for children. The following are your responsibilities.

- Oversee the entire VBS (read through the *Director Guide* and other manuals for further information)
- Work with the church staff on VBS-related issues such as goals, dates, and budget

- Recruit, organize, and oversee the entire VBS staff
- Run training workshops
- Coordinate the closing program to bring everyone back together after VBS is over
- Establish effective follow-up
- Pray over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS

Frequently Asked Questions

The content of *Zoomerang* may be new to you. For a list of helpful articles on the topics covered in this VBS program, please visit AnswersVBS.com/zrfaq.

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.

Mates: Friends or buddies are often called “mates” in Australia. Mates at VBS will be the kids.

Tour Groups: Classes of kids will be put in tour groups named after Australian animals (e.g., Kangaroos, Wombats, Sugar Gliders, and Kookaburras).

Group Guides: Adult and teen leaders will be the group guides who get the mates from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required for this position.

Tour Guides: This refers to the teachers at the Land Down Under Lessons.

Aussie Assembly: At this location, everyone joins together for the opening and closing assemblies.

Land Down Under Lessons: This rotation site is where Bible and apologetics teaching occurs.

Turtle-y Terrific Science and Crafts: At this site, mates participate in exciting science and crafts. There are also options for singing songs, learning memory verses, and exploring missions around the world.

Top Koala-ty Treats: The mates will enjoy some yummy outback eatables at this rotation.

Hoppin' Good Games: At this indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred), the mates will “av a go” (put in a good effort) at fun land and water games.

Fair Dinkum Verses: “Fair dinkum” is an Australian term meaning something that is 100% genuine and truthful. Mates at VBS will learn their fair share of fair dinkum memory verses.

Aus-some Songs: Mates will be singing along with the catchy music of VBS.

Animal Pals: These are our friendly animal mascots used to emphasize the key point of each day's lesson.

Creature Feature: During opening or closing assembly, mates will hear of real-life Australian animals and the amazing design features God has given them.

Toddlers: These are mates who are 2–4 years old.

Pre-Primaries: These are mates who are 4–6 years old or kids who are age 4 through those who have completed “kindy” (kindergarten).

Primaries: These are mates who are 6–9 years old or kids who have completed grades 1–3.

Juniors: These are mates who are 9–12 years old or kids who have completed grades 4–6.

For multiage K–6 teams, we recommend using the Primaries material.

Top 20 Tips for the VBS Director

Whether you're a first-time recruit or a seasoned director, here are some tips just for you.

1. Pray and study God's Word. "We will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4). You *will* be busy, so keep in mind that the busier you get, the more you need to pray and study! God will multiply your time if you give him your best.
2. Read through the various guides thoroughly and early. Become familiar with the Digital Resources, which contains clip art, logos, printable and customizable versions of the forms mentioned throughout this guide, and more. If you're a first-time director, ask previous directors and VBS veterans what's been done in the past. It helps to receive counsel! At the same time, don't be afraid to try something new.
3. Check out the web address listed on page 8 for great articles on the teaching at *Zoomerang*. This is a good resource for you and a good reference for volunteers or parents who have questions.
4. Many hands make light work. Be careful not to overextend yourself. Delegate areas of responsibility to people and allow them the joy of serving, even if it is not quite how you would do it.
5. When working with people, there most likely will be conflicts. Resolve conflict with prayer and gentle answers based on principles from God's Word. "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1).
6. Have a backup plan for games in case it rains and you need to be inside all day.
7. Have fun. Directing your VBS should be a joy for you. At the same time, though, remember you are in a spiritual battle with an enemy who will try to throw darts your way. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
8. Label file folders or electronic file folders with different areas of VBS, and use these to file ideas and suggestions.
9. Help your church catch the significance of this event by sharing that VBS is a huge, God-given opportunity to reach many with the gospel of Christ.
10. Get enough sleep and exercise.
11. Make people feel loved, appreciated, and needed.
12. Communicate well. Make announcements, require attendance at the training workshops, send emails, and keep everyone informed.
13. Be enthusiastic! Your excitement is contagious and makes others want to be in on the fun.
14. When deciding on the ages to include in your VBS, keep in mind that this VBS is written to appeal to not only young children but also older elementary kids. It has real answers from God's Word for real issues all kids face.
15. Be the *director*. Don't commit to teaching or any other VBS leadership role during VBS week. Stay as free as possible to greet, encourage, and troubleshoot.
16. Carry a cell phone or walkie-talkie with you during VBS week so you can be reached throughout the building.
17. Prepare two containers for each group guide. See page 38 for more information.
18. Soon after VBS is over, survey the staff so you can make improvements for next year.
19. Keep a list of answered prayers and praises. Share your list with others.
20. After VBS is finished, continue to pray for God to grow the seeds he planted and to bring more fruit over the next months. "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Connect with us and other Answers VBS directors through the following platforms:

[Facebook.com/answersvbs](https://www.facebook.com/answersvbs)

[Facebook.com/groups/answersvbs](https://www.facebook.com/groups/answersvbs)

[YouTube.com/answersvbs](https://www.youtube.com/answersvbs)

[Pinterest.com/answersvbs](https://www.pinterest.com/answersvbs)

[Twitter.com/answersvbs](https://twitter.com/answersvbs)

Terrific Trivia Tidbits

Use the fun facts below to start thinking about the fun theme (a visit to Australia) and about God's design of the human body. The trivia tidbits can be used for training meetings, during arrival and dismissal times at VBS, or during any downtime while kids wait to get to their next rotation. [Presentation images](#) are available in the Digital Resources.

Aussie Trivia

- Is Australia an island, a country, or a continent? All of the above!
- Australia is actually a land of opposites, with the highest temperatures over 107°F (42°C) and the lowest at -10°F (-23°C). Two-thirds of the country is desert, but there are also lush rain forests and mountainous regions. Can't get much more opposite than that!
- It's raining. It's . . . snowing? Yep, it snows in parts of Australia!
- How would you like to live in a town called Batmania? One city, Melbourne, used to have that name.
- Other spots in Australia are called Banana, Foul Bay, Woolloomooloo, Nowhere Else, Mt. Hope, Wagga Wagga, Tin Can Bay, Moo Ball, Paradise, Dunedoo, Woy Woy, Woolloongabba, and Wollongong.
- Dislike going to the doctor? In Australia's outback, the doctor comes to you by plane as part of the Royal Flying Doctor Service!
- The Royal Flying Doctor Service has a fleet of planes that have full operating rooms and intensive care units inside them.
- Ever been to the beach? If you lived in Australia, you'd have over 10,000 beaches to choose from.
- Ho ho ho! One of the islands off Australia's coast is called Christmas Island.
- During election season, you better not forget to vote. Voting is not optional, and people are fined if they don't.
- Ever look up your house on Google Maps? You can thank Australians for the invention of those maps.
- Australian inventions: UGG boots, the selfie, the pace-maker, the ultrasound, the black box in planes, the electric drill, and boomerangs.
- The longest fence in the world runs through Australia. It's called the Dingo Fence. Can you guess why it was built?
- Uluru, the biggest monolith rock in the world, is like an iceberg on land because most of the rock can't be seen from aboveground. The majority of it sits underground.
- Uluru was formed about 4,300 years ago during the flood of Noah's day!
- Uluru, perhaps meaning giant pebble, is so big it would be hard to miss. In 2006, however, one man waved down some police officers to ask for directions to the rock. Ironically, he was only 330 feet (100 m) away from it!
- How would you feel if a 12-foot (3-meter) crocodile tried to enter your tent? In 2006, a family was camping at a park when a croc tried to come in. Thankfully, it got scared and ended up running away.
- Australia's Kakadu National Park has more lightning than any other place on earth. During the monsoon season, lightning slices the sky for hours each day. Yikes!
- Have you ever heard of an ocean post office? The Great Barrier Reef, which has the world's biggest group of coral reefs, has the only floating post office in Australia.
- During World War I, an Australian soldier named Leonard Keysor caught bombs thrown by the enemy and tossed them right back. During one battle at Gallipoli, Turkey, he kept this up for 50 hours.
- In 2010, Sydney Opera House hosted a canine concert. One thousand dogs howled and barked for 20 minutes straight. It was the first ever dog concert.
- If you put all the roof sections of the Sydney Opera House together, they would form a perfect sphere. The architect, Jorn Utzon, got his inspiration for the roof from seeing an orange peeled.

Human Body Trivia

- A baby's skeleton has more bones than an adult's. So how does a person end up with fewer bones as he grows? Some of a young child's bones fuse together over time.
- God made skin different thicknesses. It's thicker on the soles of your feet (where it needs to be tough) but thinner on your delicate eyelids, for instance.
- Each person has on average 100,000 hairs on their head. God knows the exact number you have at any time!
- If all the muscles in your body pulled together, guess what they could lift? A bus!
- Mucus is gross! Or is it? God made it to protect your skin and lungs, and even help you swallow food.
- Did you know that while you're sleeping, your eyes stay clean by rounding up the dirt? Eye crud's cool after all!
- No joke—your upper arm bone is called the humerus. But your "funny bone" isn't actually a bone at all! That funny feeling you get after you bump your elbow comes from a nerve that bumps against your humerus.

- Some people dream in black and white and some dream in color. Wonder what your dreams look like?
- Talk about globe-trotting! If you laid out your blood vessels end to end, they would circle the globe.
- Get out the nail clippers and clip those nails. But wait! Your fingernails grow faster than your toenails—up to four times faster.
- The surface of your brain (the cerebral cortex) has lots of bumps and ridges. If you smoothed it out flat, it would be large enough to cover a bed.
- Isn't it gross to throw up? But did you know God designed your body to vomit, cough, sneeze, or itch to get rid of unwelcome germ visitors?
- God gave us amazing cooling systems. When we overheat, drops of perspiration pour out of sweat glands to cool us off. Isn't that "cool"?
- In one human brain, there's probably more electrical circuitry than all the computer systems in the world put together.

Australian Animal Trivia

- Is that someone's cell phone ringing? No, it's just Australia's lyrebird, a creature that can imitate the sounds of a cell phone, chain saw, car alarm, and more!
- As well as eating chocolate bunnies at Easter, Australians eat chocolate bilbies, which represent a marsupial that looks like a combo mouse/rabbit.
- Saltwater crocodiles can grow up to 20 feet (6 m) long. Yikes!
- If you ever climb a tree to get away from a crocodile, don't forget that crocodiles can jump more than 6 feet (1.8 m) in the air!
- Australia's blue-tongued lizard can break off its tail if caught by a predator. That's convenient!
- Baby crocodiles chirp in their eggs when they're ready to hatch. How . . . cute?
- A baby echidna is called a puggle.
- Echidnas look like their feet were put on backwards, but this design actually helps them dig and burrow below the earth better.
- Ever own a pet lizard? It might be hard to have a pet goanna. This Australian lizard can be over six feet long and can run 20 miles per hour (9 meters per second)!
- Did you know a flying fox isn't actually a fox? It's really just a giant bat.
- The smallest jellyfish is the size of an adult's thumbnail.
- In the mood to hop? A kangaroo can jump across a two-lane highway in a single bound!
- A wallaroo is another member of the kangaroo kind!
- Koalas snooze up to 20 hours a day. What sleepyheads!
- There are about 50 million large red crabs that live on Christmas Island. When they migrate, so many cover the roads that people have built bridges and tunnels to help them safely cross.
- Robber crabs have been known to steal silverware and watches out of people's homes. What unusual thieves!
- Are you a snake lover? You may want to plan a trip to Australia, where 20 of the world's 25 most venomous snakes live.
- Australia has roughly 104 million sheep. There are four times as many sheep in Australia as there are people.
- Did you know crocodiles have strong muscles that can snap their jaw shut, but weak muscles for opening their mouths? A rubber band around the snout is all that's needed to keep a croc from opening its mouth.
- In the early 1900s, Australian people shared ideas on how to reduce the amount of shark attacks. Some people suggested using explosives to blow up the sharks. Others thought mounting machine guns on the cliffs to shoot the sharks would work.
- Ever heard of a pistol shrimp? This incredible sea creature is small, but when its claws shut, the sound is louder than a jet engine. The sound stuns its prey.
- Did you know kangaroos never stop growing during their whole lifetime? Good thing humans don't do that!
- Australia's little penguins are the world's smallest penguins, weighing 2 pounds (0.9 kg) each and measuring just 10 inches (25 cm) in adulthood. Awww!
- Cane toads release a poison from their skin. Weirdly enough, this poison has been used by dentists to cure toothaches.
- There are about 30,000 kinds of flies in Australia. One specific kind likes to feed on secretions around people's eyes and mouth. Yuck! As a result of people trying to flick these pests away, the "Australian salute" was born.

Sunny Funnies

Aussie Jokes and Riddles

Day 1 Animal Pal Jokes—Kangaroo

- What song do kangaroos sing on their birthday? *Hoppy Birthday.*
- What's a kangaroo's favorite type of music? *Hip hop.*
- What do you call a baby kangaroo who watches TV all day? *A pouch potato.*

Day 2 Animal Pal Jokes—Coral

- Why did the mama coral scold the baby coral? *Because she was acting stuck up.*
- What does a coral study in school? *Current events.*
- What's the Great Barrier Reef's favorite color? *Coral.*

Day 3 Animal Pal Jokes—Platypus

- Why was the platypus able to buy whatever he wanted? *Because he was a bill-ionaire.*
- What does a crowd of platypuses like to eat for dessert? *Platy-pie.*
- What do you call a platypus that gets run over by a train? *A flatypus.*

Day 4 Animal Pal Jokes—Koala

- What did the koala wife say to her husband? *You have so many great koala-ties.*
- What should you say to the koala who's having a hard day? *Hang in there.*
- What line of work are koalas in? *Koala-ty control.*

Day 5 Animal Pal Jokes—Dingo

- What do Australian dogs say when they fill five spaces in a row on their game boards? *DINGO!*
- What did one dingo say when meeting the other dingo? *Howl do you do?*
- What's a dingo's favorite treat? *A Hostess Ding Dong.*

Miscellaneous Jokes and Riddles

- What's a crocodile's favorite social media platform? *Snapchat.*
- Where is an opal's favorite hiding spot? *Down under.*
- What did the surfer do when he saw his long lost friend? *He waved.*
- Why don't clownfish use the buddy system on field trips? *Because they already travel in schools.*
- What do crocodiles use to cook most of their meals? *A crockpot.*
- What's a wallaby's favorite restaurant? *IHOP.*

- What do you get when you cross a beach lover and a computer lover? *Someone who likes to surf the net.*
- How sure is the dingo that he wants to move? *He's paws-itive.*
- What animal does FedEx most like to deliver? *A box jellyfish.*
- What did the opera singer name her daughter? *Sydney.*
- What did the mama echidna say when her son dressed up? *You're looking sharp!*
- What did the boy wombat say to his girlfriend? *There's no wom-bater than you.*
- What's a kangaroo's favorite saying? *Don't worry. Be hoppy.*
- What is the boomerang's favorite texting abbreviation? *BRB (be right back).*
- What Aussie bird is a great chef? *A cook-aburra.*
- What do you get when you cross a kangaroo with a reindeer? *Roo-dolph.*
- What did one beach pail say to the other? *Don't sand so close to me.*
- What did the fish say to her friend who was leaving? *I fish we had more time.*

Knock Knock Jokes

- Knock knock. *Who's there?*
Aussie. *Aussie who?*
Aussie you're going to the outback. Can I come too?
- Knock knock. *Who's there?*
Annie. *Annie who?*
Annie body want some Vegemite?
- Knock knock. *Who's there?*
Luke. *Luke who?*
Luke at that koala!
- Knock knock. *Who's there?*
June. *June who?*
June know there are more kangaroos than people in Australia?
- Knock knock. *Who's there?*
Lettuce. *Lettuce who?*
Lettuce come to the beach with you!

Tongue Twisters

- Five fine fresh fish.
- She sells seashells by the seashore.
- Selfish shellfish.

Aussie Lingo A to Z

A

Ankle biters—children
Arvo—afternoon
Aussie—Australian

B

Barbie—barbeque
Beanie—popular winter hat
Beaut—fantastic
Bikie—motorcycle ride
Billabong—waterhole in a dry river bed
Bogie—swimming hole
Bonzer—great
Boomer—kangaroo
Breadbasket—stomach
Brekkie—breakfast
Bush—countryside

C

Cakehole—mouth
Chemist's—drugstore
Chewie—chewing gum
Chokkie—chocolate
Chrissie—Christmas
Clobber—clothes
Clodhoppers—feet

D

Daks—pants
Dip your lid—show respect for someone
Dodger—bread
Dunny—toilet

E

Esky—portable cooler
Exy—expensive

F

Fair dinkum—100% genuine, excellent
Footy—football
Fringe—bangs
Frog and Toad—road

G

G'day—hello
Get a wriggle on—hurry up
Going to bush—leaving the city and going to the country
Good onya—good one

H

Hollie—holiday
Honker—nose
Hooroo or check ya!—goodbye

I

Icy poles—popsicles
Ivories—teeth

J

Jackaroos/Jillaroos—men/women who work on cattle and sheep stations
Jarmies—pajamas
Jumbuck—sheep
Jumper—sweater

K

Kindy—kindergarten

L

Lappy—laptop
Lemon squash—lemonade
Lift—elevator
Lollies—candy or sweets
Lolly water—soft drink
Lugs—ears

M

Maccas—McDonald's
Mate—friend, buddy, pal
Meanie—mean person
Mozzie—mosquito

N

Nana—banana
Never-never—the very remote outback
Newie—new item
Noggin—head
No worries—you're welcome

O

Offsider—companion
Oz—Australia

P

Petrol—gas
Prezzie—present

Q

Queue up—line up

R

Rellies—relatives
Rents—parents
Roo—kangaroo

S

Sanger—sandwich
She'll be apples/she'll be right—everything will be okay
Spider—fizzy drink with a dollop of ice cream on it
Spud—potato
Stinker—very hot day
Sunbake—sunbathe
Sunnies—sunglasses

T

Ta—thanks
Takeaway—takeout
Telly—TV
Thingo/thingamajig—thing
Toastie—toasted sandwich
Torch—flashlight
Tucker—food

U

Uni—university
Ute—utility truck

V

Veg out—laze about

W

Whatchamacallit—thing

XYZ

Yabber—talk
Yonks—a long time
Zip it—stop talking

Australian Animals A to Z

A Australian cattle dog, Australian fur seal

B bandicoot, barramundi, bilby, blobfish,
blue-tongued lizard, box jellyfish

C camel, cassowary, clownfish,
coral, crocodile, cuttlefish

D dingo, dugong

E echidna, emu

F flying fox, freshwater crocodile,
frilled-neck lizard

G giant centipede, giant clam,
goanna, goliath stick insect

H Hercules moth, hopping mouse

I Irukandji jellyfish

J jabiru, joey, jumping spider

K kangaroo, koala, kookaburra

L legless lizard, lichen spider,
loggerhead turtle, lyrebird

M manta ray, marsupial mole, musky-rat kangaroo

N numbat

O oblong turtle

P platypus, python

Q quokka, quoll

R rainbow lorikeet, redback spider, red crab

S saltwater crocodile, sheep, spiny
leaf insect, stonefish, sugar glider,
Sydney funnel-web spider

T Tasmanian devil, tawny frogmouth,
termite, thorny devil

U Ulyssey butterfly

V velvet gecko

W wallaby, witchetty grub, wombat

XYZ yabby, zebra finch

Aussie Words A to Z

A Aboriginal people, Adelaide, Alice Springs, Anzac biscuit, Aussie, Australia

B beach, billabong, Blue Mountains, boomer, boomerang, Boxing Day, Brisbane, bush fire, bush, bushwalk, Byron Bay

C Canberra, cattle station, Christmas Island, Coober Pedy, convict, cricket (the game)

D Darwin (the town), desert, didgeridoo, dingo fence, dot art, down under, dust

E elements, extreme sports

F fairy bread, fantales, festivals, fishing, flies

G gold, Gold Coast, golden wattle, goldrush, Great Barrier Reef, gum tree

H hat, heat

I Indigenous Australians, island

J jackaroo, jillaroo

K Kakadu National Park, Kangaroo Island, kilometers

L lamington, Land Down Under, lifesaver

M marsupials, mate, meat pie, melba toast, Melbourne, Melbourne Cup, mining

N New South Wales, Northern Territory, Nullarbor

O olgas, Olympics, opal, opera house, outback

P parliament, pavlova, pearl, Perth, plains

Q Qantas, Queen Elizabeth, Queensland

R rain forest, Red Centre, Royal Flying Doctors, rugby

S sandals, scuba diving, snorkeling, soccer, Southern Australia, sunglasses, sunscreen, surfboard, surfing, Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney Opera House, swimming

T Tasmania, Tim Tam, tourism, tucker

U Uluru

V Vegemite, Victoria

W Waltzing Matilda, warm, Western Australia, windsurfing

XYZ yabber, yacht race, zinc cream

Top 20 Tips When Working with Children

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:13–14

1. Show love. All children, regardless of age or appearance, need to be loved. Greet them warmly each day, and always be ready with smiles, giggles, encouraging words, and appropriate hugs. (Make sure all staff are aware of your church's appropriate touching policies.)
2. Learn names. It makes children feel important and loved to be called by their name. Make sure visible name tags are always on each child.
3. Keep it moving. Children have short attention spans.
4. Use active learning. The more children can actively be involved in the learning process, the more they will retain.
5. 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 during VBS. Listen to them and care for them.
6. Eliminate downtime. Find activities to do when you have a few free minutes so all time is being used in a fun and productive way. Practice memory verses, share Terrific Trivia Tidbits and jokes (pages 10–12), play impromptu review games, or ask fun conversation starters (page 80).
7. Think safety. Read the Child Safety Precautions on page 56. Ensure there are always at least two unrelated adults with the children at all times.
8. Be thematic. Get the kids enthused and excited about participating in the daily contests. Children love costumes, fun cheers, songs, and anything that goes with the theme, so dress to reflect Australia. Check the VBS catalog for cool Australian T-shirt and hat possibilities. Sunglasses can complete the look.
9. Walk worthy. Be an example in both word and deed. Children need to see authentic Christianity, so make sure you are walking the walk and not just talking the talk.
10. Notice the good. Children want attention and will sometimes act 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.
11. Be aware of age-level characteristics. With younger children, activities need to be hands-on, concrete, short, and simple. Older children love to talk and are processing and questioning information. Be ready to give an answer for the hope that is within you.
12. Challenge them. Children generally rise to the level expected of them, so challenge them to learn their memory verses and song lyrics. At the same time, encourage in them a true love for the Lord and his Word.
13. Pray. Before, during, and after VBS, be a faithful prayer warrior for the children in your care.
14. Be organized. Read through all training information, ask questions, and faithfully prepare any materials for which you are responsible.
15. Be a team player. Children do not need to hear negative words from their leaders. If you are frustrated or upset, take it to the Lord, but do not complain or get angry in front of the children.
16. Remember to take bathroom breaks. The younger the children, the more important this is!
17. Maintain order. 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.
18. Build team spirit. Work as a team rather than allowing cliques to develop. Everyone should be an important member of the team.
19. Use guided conversation. Be alert and ready to turn conversations to spiritual matters. Build upon what the children are learning throughout the VBS day.
20. Be prepared to lead a child to Christ. Attend the Gospel Presentation Workshop to be equipped should God give you the awesome opportunity to talk to a child about Christ.

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 corresponding age, but these guidelines can be a benchmark to use when looking at characteristics of children as a whole. It can be

helpful to see how God has wired children as they develop, enabling us to be more effective in teaching and interacting with them.

First, you'll see characteristics of children in general and then characteristics broken down by the four age groups we use with Answers VBS.

Common Characteristics

- Children 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 by criticism and failure.
- Children are eager to learn and are curious about the world and about God.

Toddlers (2–4 years old)

Physical Characteristics

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

Takeaways for Us

- Keep toddlers moving. Engage them actively as much as possible. Have them do motions to songs and actions to Bible accounts.
- Supervise them carefully.
- Provide chunky, nontoxic supplies.
- Intersperse periods of sitting with something active.

Emotional/Social Characteristics

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

Takeaways for Us

- Let toddlers be helpers. Give them simple one-step jobs to do and have them help pick up things and straighten the room at the end of the lesson. Let them know they've done a good job.
- Be consistently present all week; establish routines and stick with them.

- Be consistent in discipline. Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no."
- Give them opportunities to dress up and play imaginatively.
- Don't dress in elaborate costumes that may seem unfamiliar and scary.
- Be careful to walk worthy—act and speak in godly ways. Little eyes are watching and will want to imitate you!

Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

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

Takeaways for Us

- Involve toddlers' senses in learning! The more they can touch, smell, see, taste, and feel, the better!
- Give clear, simple directions.
- Keep activities and lessons short. Toddlers' attention spans are only a few minutes long before they need to switch to something new, so keep it moving!
- Be careful to speak accurately and truthfully.
- Show care and respect for your Bible and help them see your love for it and for the Lord.

Pre-Primaries (4–6 years old)

Physical Characteristics

Pre-Primaries are active and more confident in physical activities like jumping, hopping on one foot, and walking backwards. They love to be moving. They're improving in hand-eye coordination.

Takeaways for Us

- Pre-Primaries like to play hard, so keep them moving with short, simple games and activities. They may need to sit and rest for a brief time after active play.

Emotional/Social Characteristics

Pre-Primaries are less fearful than toddlers but may still be afraid of common things like dogs or the dark. They can have emotional extremes and are testing others to see who can be controlled. They want to please adults and want praise. They will often mimic adults' behaviors. They like imaginative play. Pre-Primaries can handle small tasks and levels of responsibility.

Takeaways for Us

- Let them be helpers. Give them simple jobs to do, and have them help pick up things and straighten the room at the end of the lesson. Let them know they've done a good job.
- Give them opportunities to dress up and play imaginatively.
- Be consistent in discipline. Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no."
- Be careful to walk worthy—act and speak in godly ways. Little eyes are watching and will want to imitate you!

Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

Pre-Primaries talk a lot and ask a lot of questions, including questions about God. They understand that sin is disobeying God. They need a lot of guidance in tasks but can also follow a simple series of directions. They have an attention span of approximately 5 minutes. They enjoy doing new things and hearing stories and songs. They're not always able to tell the difference between reality and fantasy. They're developing attitudes toward right and wrong and can do basic memory work.

Takeaways for Us

- In downtime, give them time to ask questions and be ready to patiently answer! During teaching time, however, be careful you don't get so wrapped up in letting them talk that the lesson doesn't happen!
- Vary activities often—every 5–10 minutes.
- When engaged in pretend activities, name them as such (e.g., "Let's pretend to be explorers!"). At the same time, point out often that God's Word is not pretend but true!
- Repetition in songs and stories works great and is enjoyed by Pre-Primaries.
- Sing the memory verse songs with them. They will be able to learn at least parts of the verses by the end of the week.
- Use visuals.
- Teach them about sin and asking God for forgiveness.
- 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.

Primaries (6–9 years old)

Physical Characteristics

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

Takeaways for Us

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

Emotional/Social Characteristics

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

Takeaways for Us

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

Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

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

Takeaways for Us

- Be concrete in what you say. Don't use abstract or symbolic language. For example, regarding salvation, don't ask if they have Jesus in their hearts. They will take that literally. Becoming a child of God, or being in God's family, is a more concrete way to express the same concept, as they will understand what it means to be in a family.

- Although their attention spans are growing, it's still good to vary activities and involve Primaries with movement as much as possible.
- Some children read better than others. Be careful about asking children to read out loud. Try asking for volunteers.
- Small print can be a challenge, so use larger print when possible.
- Encourage memorization.
- Use visuals.
- Show interest in each child, helping them sense your care and interest in them.
- Be careful to speak accurately and truthfully, and explain Bible words and concepts even if you think they are widely understood.
- Remember that you are a role model.
- Show care and respect for your Bible and help them see your love for it and for the Lord.

Juniors (9–12 years old)

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. Their stamina, strength, and coordination are improving, and some are becoming known for their athletic abilities. Juniors enjoy going places and doing interesting things.

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 gifts and 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 and 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 close friendships and small group discussion with peers. 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 and most understand

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, listen well, and be patient with them.
- Incorporate discussion into the lesson and do things that allow teams or pairings that don't rely solely on the children choosing partners. This helps avoid children repeatedly getting chosen last by peers.
- 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, for which they're looking for good answers. 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 act out lessons. Most Juniors enjoy this active involvement.
- Give them opportunities to be involved in missions or service projects.
- Challenge them to ask God to help them grow in their love for him 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.

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 using some strategies that follow.

Attention Getters

Call and Response—The teacher teaches the kids that when she says something, they reply back with something else. Practice the following ideas so they know your expectations for responding to them.

- » **Teacher:** Zoomerang! (clap, clap)
Kids: Zoomeree! (clap, clap)
- » **Teacher:** God made you.
Kids: And God made me.
- » **Teacher:** Zoomerang! (clap, clap)
Kids: Zoomeroo! (clap, clap)
- » **Teacher:** All of the old,
Kids: And young ones, too.
- » **Teacher:** G,day, mates!
Kids: G,day, mate!

Rhythm Claps—The teacher claps a little rhythm and the kids try to clap the exact rhythm back. Vary the clapping patterns.

Countdown—Hold up five fingers and start to count down from five to one. By the count of one, they need to be completely quiet.

Soft Talk—Start talking about something important very softly, or in a whisper. They will often get quiet to hear what you are saying.

Flash the Lights—This is a good signal to listen up.

Lining Up and Walking Through the Building

If You . . .—Say different categories for lining up in fun ways, such as the following:

- » “If you are wearing red, line up. Now, if you’re wearing blue, line up.”
- » “If your birthday is during the summer, line up. Now, if your birthday is during the school year, line up.”
- » “If you have a dog, line up. Now, if you have a cat, line up. Now, if you have no pets, line up.”
- » “If your first name starts with A–L, line up. Now, if your first name starts with M–Z, line up.”
- » “If you are quiet, line up.”

Let’s Be . . .—When you are leaving a room, encourage good behavior in the hallway by making a game out of it. This works well with younger kids.

- » “Let’s be mice and walk as quietly as we can.”
- » “Let’s be robots. No talking—just stiff movements.”

Proactive Tips

Be Prepared—One of the best ways to ward off discipline problems is to be prepared. If you have things well organized and have thought through your day so there isn’t downtime, it really helps. Keep things moving! This takes more time on your part but is very worth it.

Active Participation—Keeping kids actively engaged in the lesson is perhaps the best thing you can do to keep the class from getting rowdy. The lessons are written to be creative, fun, and full of active participation. Play the games, act out the Bible accounts, and do the other ideas listed. Occupy kids’ minds and attention with good stuff!

Helpers—Involve the kids. Let them be helpers. Some kids just want to feel wanted, so giving them a responsibility is a way to show you trust them. Try putting them in charge of a simple task like filling out the attendance roster as kids come in to VBS, collecting name tags, carrying crafts, helping others learn memory verses, passing out papers, or holding a poster for the teacher. Sometimes a simple task can keep them busy and make them feel important!

Pray—Some kids may never have had anyone pray for them. Pray not only about behavior situations but also about their eternal souls.

Notice the Good—Sometimes a poor behavior is an attention-seeking device, so be proactive and give attention to that child so she doesn’t feel the need to act out negatively. Negative behaviors can be a cry for love and attention.

Use Humor—Kids of all ages love to laugh! Have fun together. If you see a situation is getting tense or a child is getting upset for some reason, try thinking of a way to lighten the mood with humor.

Distraction—When young kids are dropped off or start to cry, distracting them is a good technique to try. Ask them to tell you about something on their clothes (“Oh, what’s that on your T-shirt?”), get them talking about some of their favorites, or show them an intriguing toy or puppet.

Keep Them Busy—If there is any downtime, fill it with something productive! This could occur while waiting for the next rotation or the assembly to begin, if craft time ends a few minutes early, etc. Use the time to practice team cheers, ask questions, or go over memory verses in fun ways (make up motions, make them into a rap, etc.). You may also want to play a quick game, like one of the following.

- » **Stone Face**—Have a competition to see which child can hold a frown for the longest without cracking a smile.
- » **I Spy**—Look for Australian things to spy out.

- » **Simon Says**—Simon can say Bible-themed things, like read your Bible (hands in front of you making a book), pray (praying hands), tell others (cup hands around mouth), go to church (make a church with a steeple out of your interlocked hands), etc.
- » **Quiet Mouse**—Have a competition to see who is the quietest in line.
- » **Follow the Leader**—Play the normal version or an Aussie version. An Aussie version uses Australian animals and activities, like the following:
 - Hop like a kangaroo.
 - Swim like a shark.
 - Move like a dingo.
 - Swim like a platypus.
 - Fly like a lyrebird.
 - Go scuba diving.
 - Ride a surfboard.
 - Throw a frisbee on the beach.

Calming Rowdiness

Don't Yell—Kids may respond at first if someone yells, but they eventually dismiss it. Try some of these other ideas instead.

Separate Kids—Separate kids who misbehave around each other, but also encourage problem-solving when possible. “What are some things we could do to help you and ___ get along?”

Give Choices—Avoid power struggles by giving choices. If a child is resistant to doing something you've asked of her, try your command another way. “You can either sit with the rest of the group and listen to the teacher or sit with ___ (leader's name) at the back of the room.”

Praise in Public, Correct in Private—If someone does need correction, be careful not to embarrass him in front of his peers. If you need to talk to a child about a misbehavior, pull him aside at a time when the rest of the group is distracted. Kids will be less defensive if they don't feel they have to “save face” in front of their peers, and if they feel you really care and aren't just coming down on them.

Know Church Policies—Know your church's policy for severe behavior issues. Do you take the child to your VBS director? Do you alert the child's parents? Do you involve other staff members? Be prepared.

What's in the Digital Resources?

All resources listed on this page are on the Resource USB that comes with the purchase of a kit and can also be downloaded from AnswersVBS.com/zoomresources. They are also included in the Digital Pro, which is available to purchase at myAnswers.com. You may upload the contents of the Digital Resources to a file-sharing site for your organization only. You may also email the resources to your team as necessary. Or each leader can access the above link to download the resources necessary for their rotation.

Assembly Resources

This folder contains what is referenced in the *Assembly Guide*, including the presentation images and videos for the Creature Features, contests, and assembly scripts. For Children's Hunger Fund materials, see **Mission Moment_Children's Hunger Fund** folder. For materials referenced in the drama, see the **Assembly_Drama** folder.

Assembly_Drama

This is the folder that will be used by your drama director. It features the sound effects, scripts, and prop lists needed to perform the drama. It also includes **a shorter script option**.

Bible Lessons

These folders are used by your Land Down Under Lesson (Bible lesson) teachers.

The simple songs referenced in the teacher guides for younger children have their own folder. They can be uploaded onto an MP3 player (on a phone, tablet, or other device) to be played in the classroom. These songs are also available to purchase on a CD (11-9-141) or as a download through our online store.

The patterns and coloring sheets referenced throughout the teacher guides are found in their respective age folders, along with a rich text (RTF) document of each teacher guide.

Presentation images of the memory verses, animal pals, and illustration posters are found in the **Presentation Images** folders.

Clip Art

A variety of clip art pertaining to the theme is found in this folder in both color and black-and-white versions.

The clip art is provided in three formats. Each format has a specific type of use. **PDF** files are vector files, which have transparent backgrounds and are scalable for shirt printing or to make large signs or banners. **PNG** files are a general image format that contain transparent backgrounds. They

can be used for any print or web use but cannot be scaled up without resolution issues. **SVG** files are the simple vector formats required for Cricut machines.

Coloring Pages

Craft and Science Patterns

Your Turtle-y Terrific Science and Craft leaders will use this folder. PDFs of the patterns referenced throughout the science and crafts book are included in this folder.

Director Folders

These folders are for the VBS director and feature the forms listed throughout the *Director Guide*.

The **Aussie Fun Fest** folder has what you need to host the carnival mentioned on page 71.

The **Helps and Forms** folder features editable forms mentioned throughout this guide.

Registration forms are also available. You may also want to register children online through the myAnswers.com portal.

Logos

We have provided a variety of logo options for you to use in promoting your Zoomerang VBS program. You have permission to use these logos in any way that pertains to your VBS. You will also find images to use on various social media platforms in order to advertise your VBS.

Logos are provided in three formats. Each format has a specific type of use. **PDF** files are vector files, which have transparent backgrounds and are scalable for shirt printing or to make large signs or banners. **PNG** files are a general image format that contain transparent backgrounds. They can be used for any print or web use but cannot be scaled up without resolution issues. **SVG** files are the simple vector formats required for Cricut machines.

Mission Moment

One folder features the mission moment with Children's Hunger Fund, and the other folder features the Wild Brothers mission videos. Determine when you would like to show these videos—either during the opening assembly or during one of your rotations. Check the *Assembly Guide* and the *Turtle-y Terrific Science and Crafts Guide* (there is a mission rotation featured here) for more information. The CHF folder features presentation images, printable activities, as well as a reply form for whatever money is collected.



Presentation Images

These folders feature slides of the animal pals, Bible lesson illustrations, blank backgrounds, memory verses (in KJV and ESV), course overviews, and trivia (including daily jokes). We have also included PDFs in case you would like to print some of the files.

The **All** folder contains a PowerPoint file that contains all the images. Use this file to manipulate the images for your specific use by moving them around, deleting what you don't need, and adding in any videos. We aren't able to include videos in the file because it becomes too large for the USB.



Short Animations

Animations used in our videos can be found here for inclusion in your media.



Snack Patterns

Your snack director will need to have access to the PDF in this folder. You may want to print this file and give it to your snack leader for use as necessary.



Supply Lists

The supply lists for each leader guide are included in this folder, as well as in the Procedure section of this guide. They are included as RTF documents so you can modify them according to which activities you choose for your VBS.

Music USB Contents

NEW this year! All music resources (hand-motion videos, song lyric videos, lyrics, and presentation images) for both contemporary and traditional songs are found on the Music USB that comes with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit. Additional Music USBs can also be purchased. These resources are also available with the purchase of Digital Pro at myAnswers.com.

PRIORITIES

Be Anchored

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. Psalm 1:1–3

To ensure that your VBS doesn't take a dive, work on deepening your relationship with the Lord before, during, and after VBS. As director, your commitment to continual growth in your personal relationship with the Lord is vital. This comes as you depend upon the Lord and eagerly follow after him. Daily prayer and Bible study provide fuel for your growth. The Lord tells us that "whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Encourage your staff to regularly spend time fellowshiping with the Lord through prayer and reading his Word.

Take seriously the responsibility of finding a prayer coordinator to head up a VBS prayer ministry. Copy the following page for your prayer coordinator and encourage him to put together a combination of ideas that suits your situation.

Devotions for each VBS day have also been provided. You may want to read through these together or encourage your staff to read them on their own. Copies of the [devotions](#) can also be found on the Digital Resources, in the *Helper Handbook* (item 11-9-007), and in the teacher guides for each age group.



Praying for Your VBS

Praying that the Lord will use this VBS program for his purposes is vital. Apart from him, we can do nothing. As you launch your prayer ministry, choose from the following ideas.

Top 10 Tips for a VBS Prayer Ministry

“When God plans a great work, he first sets his people to prayer.”—Charles Spurgeon

1. Find prayer warriors. Enlist people who are willing to pray consistently for VBS. Send each of them a list of VBS prayer requests for which they can regularly be praying. See the [Prayer Calendar Sample](#) for ideas.
2. Set up an email prayer loop. Use your church’s email prayer loop—or create your own—to pass along VBS prayer requests.
3. Gather your VBS crew to pray. Pray at meetings and encourage them to pray on their own. Write all VBS crew names on slips of paper and have each draw a name of a fellow crew member to pray for and with.
4. Hold a weekly prayer meeting devoted to VBS. Pray over that week’s praises and prayer requests.
5. Encourage your group guides to pray through the names on their class lists before, during, and after VBS.
6. Hold a dedication service. Encourage the pastoral staff to include a time of prayer during the church service the Sunday before VBS.
7. Print maps and prayer request sheets and encourage your church family to walk the premises and pray over every area of the building and grounds.
8. Pass out “Praying for You” postcards (item 11-9-028) to willing and trustworthy church members with instructions to write a quick note to a child, letting him know someone is praying for him. Collect the postcards the week before VBS begins and have church staff address and mail them.
9. People who may not be able to make it to VBS can help by praying during the VBS hours from work, home, or wherever they are.
10. When VBS is over, continue to encourage your church family to pray for the children who came to VBS. Ask God to continue to work in their hearts and minds.



Staff Devotions

Devotion 1 The Beginning of Life

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, the land was not like it is today. It was free from life and empty. During the Dreamtime, the Spirits made the land and people. They made rivers, hills, rocks, plants, and animals. They made laws about how people were to behave.

Sound vaguely familiar? This brief retelling of an Aboriginal creation story bears some similarities to the true creation account found in the biblical book of Genesis. At one point in the not-too-distant past, the ancient Aboriginal people knew the true account, as well. After the rebellion and dispersion from Babel (c. 2200 BC), descendants of Noah settled in Australia. As time passed and their descendants multiplied, the various Aboriginal tribes developed.

Noah, the keeper of the books of Adam and Seth, knew the true Creator God. If he did his fatherly duty and passed on that information to his sons and grandsons, then his descendants knew about the biblical God who created everything. Sadly, the information was corrupted over time, as Noah's descendants turned their backs on the truth and instead sought to develop their own view of history.

Today, many myths about the past exist. One of the more insidious and bizarre is the myth that we share an ancestor with the apes. Sadly, this idea reduces the all-powerful God to an apelike creature in whose image humans were made. It forces mankind to become just another animal without responsibility for their actions and without the need of a Savior from their sins. (When is the last time you've tried to preach the gospel to a monkey?)

Yet we have the truth about life in our hands. The Creator of all life has given us the true account of how things came to be in his book, the Bible. When we teach our children, as the Bible commands us to, the truth about where they came from and where they're going, there are no "missing links." We need to be vigilantly watching what the world teaches

so that we're prepared to tear down every false argument that sets itself against the knowledge of God (2 Corinthians 10:4-5) and build up a biblical worldview in those the Lord has entrusted to our care. Let's diligently impart the truth to our children and grandchildren.

As you go throughout your day today, think about how you can encourage a desire for true wisdom, which is found in Christ (Colossians 3:16), in the hearts of the kids you're working with.

My son, if you receive my words
and treasure up my commandments with you,
making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
yes, if you call out for insight
and raise your voice for understanding,
if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden treasures,
then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.
For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;
he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,
guarding the paths of justice
and watching over the way of his saints.
Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path;
for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
discretion will watch over you,
understanding will guard you.

Proverbs 2:1-11