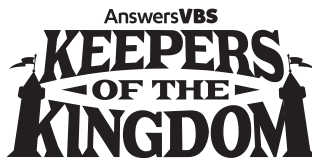


— MINERVA'S —
**MISSIONS, MUSIC &
MEMORY VERSES**

AT THE MANOR



— MINERVA'S —
**MISSIONS, MUSIC &
MEMORY VERSES**



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Music, Missions & Memory Verses Guide

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Contents

Contents.	3
Huzzah!	4
Frequently Asked Questions	6
Terms to Know	6
Forged in Hope.	12
Materials Needed	15
The Wild Brothers	16
Daily Scripts.	16

Huzzah!

Hooray! It's time to charge into medieval times—a world brimming with breathtaking castles, regal kings and queens, fire-breathing dragons and brave knights, and epic battles.

Amid the pages of *Keepers of the Kingdom: Standing Strong in Today's Battle for Truth*, your knights will learn how to be part of God's kingdom and wear the armor of God. Our Royal Majesty's kingdom is under attack, and we must prepare for battle!

Day 1: The Two Kingdoms—We will discover there are just two kingdoms—the kingdom of light versus the kingdom of darkness. One is ruled by the good King, Creator God. The other is ruled by the enemy, Satan.

Day 2: The Belt—We must decide our side. Those who become citizens of God's good kingdom need to wear the armor of God daily, starting with the belt of truth that helps us have an unshakable trust in God's Word, along with helping us live as truthful people.

Day 3: The Breastplate and Shoes—The breastplate helps God's children put on Christ's righteousness and grow in right living. The shoes show us we can be at peace with God, which helps us stand firm in our Christian convictions and share Jesus with others.

Day 4: The Shield and Helmet—The shield and helmet protect us from the enemy's attacks—wrong thinking, discouragement, and deception. We will learn to discern!

Day 5: The Sword and Prayer—The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God, which helps us train our brains to know, memorize, love, and obey God's Word. And as we battle, we must pray!

Excitement and adventure await from the first minute of each day when kids meet in traveling troupes. The troupes gather at the **Apprentices' Assembly in the Great Hall**, a high-energy beginning that includes wacky intros, lively songs, a missions moment, and prayer.

Then they're off to rotate through five fun sites:

Truth Talks in the Keep, where God's Word is taught in hands-on ways.

Kieran's Science and Crafts in the Courtyard, where kids are bedazzled making special craft and science creations of their own.

Tessa's Treats in the Town, where kids can feast on tantalizing treats and eats.

Griffin's Games on the Green, where there are plenty of old-world games with new fun twists.

Minerva's Missions, Music, and Memory Verses at the Manor, where kids can sing songs, learn their memory verses with fun games, or go in-depth with the mission moment featuring Children's Hunger Fund and the Wild Brothers.

Finally, everyone heads back to the **Apprentices' Assembly in the Great Hall** for the closing, where there's more singing, contest results, and the highly anticipated daily drama. This is situated in the royal chambers and features some regal (and not so regal) characters who are engaged in a classic battle between good and evil.

So prepare to step back in time, embark on the journey, and partake in one royally fun time!

OUR GOAL

We are so thankful for how God has chosen to use the Answers VBS programs over the past years! But why did we decide to embark on such an undertaking in the first place, and why are we still at it, by God's grace?

Our primary goal has always been to bring God glory by boldly and unashamedly proclaiming him to a strategic group—young people! From both a biblical and statistical point of view, young people are a big deal. They're not only awesome—we love 'em!—but they're also dearly cherished by our Lord and tend to be softhearted toward spiritual things. Researchers generally agree most people become Christians when they're children, so it's apparent this age group is a huge mission field!

Children are loved by their Creator, and 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, we don't want 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!

Frequently Asked Questions

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

Terms to Know

Throughout the VBS curriculum, various terms will be used. Here is a list of some of the most common terms to know.

Traveling Troupes: Groups of children (individual classes) named after people of the Middle Ages, such as Jesters, Bakers, or Troubadours.

Troupe Leaders: Group leaders who lead the traveling troupes from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required of this position.

Truth Talks in the Keep: Bible and apologetics lesson time in the most fortified part of the castle—the keep.

Royal Trainers: Teachers of the Truth Talks.

Kieran's Science and Crafts in the Courtyard: Rotation site where crafts are made and science experiments are explored.

Tessa's Treats in the Town: Indoor or outdoor location where snacks are served.

Griffin's Games on the Green: Indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred) for recreation time.

Minerva's Missions, Music, and Memory Verses at the Manor:
Rotation sites where kids can spend additional time learning songs, memory verses, and missions.

Veritas Verse: Daily memory verse. (*Veritas*, a good medieval word, means “truth is mighty and will prevail” and “true, trustworthy.”)

Animal Pals: Our friendly animal mascots that remind us of the main themes of each day.

Toddlers: 2–4-year-olds.

Pre-Primaries: 4–6-year-olds, or children ages 4 through those who have completed kindergarten.

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

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

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

Minstrel's Music

This section is for those who may want to add a music rotation to their schedule. A Music Leader USB (including both contemporary and traditional) is included with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit or is available to purchase separately at AnswersVBS.com (12-0-057). The Music Leader USB includes memory verse hand-motion videos (contemporary only), song lyric videos, and audio files for you to choose from. Check with your director for the USB.

To help the children learn the VBS songs, spend some time singing them during this rotation. The theme song is fun to sing every day, along with several other songs. Choose the songs your kids will enjoy and repeat them throughout the week or use the suggestions given below. You may also want to include the day's memory verse song. (See the Veritas Verses Review section.)

MATERIALS

- Music Leader USB
- Minstrel's Music Station
Poster (12-0-034)
- Device to play songs

DAY 1

"Keepers of the Kingdom"
(theme song)

Contemporary: "Way,
Truth, Life"

C: "Hold On to the Truth"

C: "Go, Go, Go"

Traditional: "The Kingdom on
the Right"

T: "My Armor"

T: "Be My King"

DAY 2

"Keepers of the Kingdom"
(theme song)

C: "Hold On to the Truth"

C: "Go, Go, Go"

C: "Faith Is the Victory"

T: "My Armor"

T: "Be My King"

T: "Faith Is the Victory"

DAY 3

"Keepers of the Kingdom"
(theme song)

C: "Go, Go, Go"

C: "Shield of Faith"

C: "Take Up Your Sword"

T: "Be My King"

T: "Flaming Arrows and
Fiery Darts"

T: "The Army of the Lord"

Day 4

“Keepers of the Kingdom”
(theme song)

C: “Shield of Faith”

C: “Way, Truth, Life”

C: “Hold On to the Truth”

T: “Flaming Arrows and
Fiery Darts”

T: “The Kingdom on the Right”

T: “My Armor”

Day 5

“Keepers of the Kingdom”
(theme song)

C: “Take Up Your Sword”

C: “Faith Is the Victory”

C: “Shield of Faith”

T: “The Army of the Lord”

T: “Flaming Arrows and
Fiery Darts”

T: “Faith Is the Victory”

Veritas Verses Review

Veritas means “true and trustworthy.” This section is for those who want to add a memory verse rotation to their schedule. Display the memory verse posters in your area. Review the memory verse by playing the appropriate song from the Music Leader USB (either video or audio) several times, encouraging the kids to sing along. Then play a game to review the verse. You may want to combine this with the song rotation time.

A Music Leader USB, including both contemporary and traditional music, is available with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit (12-2-002) or separately (12-0-057) at AnswersVBS.com. Check with your director for the USB.

MATERIALS

- Music Leader USB
- Memory Verse Posters
- Memory Verse Sign (12-0-035)
- Device to play songs

Day 1

To review the verses, play a “strengthening” game. Write several types of exercises on small pieces of paper (e.g., stretches, squats, leg lifts, or jumping jacks) and place them in a bag or box. Have students take turns drawing a paper out and leading the others in the exercise while reciting the verse together. Repeat the process several times for each verse.

Theme Verse

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.
(Ephesians 6:10, ESV)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (Ephesians 6:10, KJV)

Juniors and Primaries

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10–11, ESV)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10–11, KJV)

Pre-Primaries and Toddlers

Put on the whole armor of God. (Ephesians 6:11, ESV)

Put on the whole armour of God. (Ephesians 6:11, KJV)

Mission Moment

The VBS mission emphasis provides a unique and practical opportunity for children to learn about and participate in the work of gospel-centered ministries that serve the poor. Each day's segment will take 15–20 minutes.

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

Note that the Children's Hunger Fund scripts are also provided in the *Assembly Guide* for those who would like to offer a mission time then. Coordinate with your director and assembly leader on who is doing what concerning the mission time.

Forged in Hope

Forged in Hope is a powerful addition to your VBS program. Your kids will explore five different countries and learn how they can make a difference for children living in poverty around the world.

As your students explore Nepal, Kenya, Albania, Honduras, and the US, they'll hear the stories of boys and girls whose lives have been touched by poverty. These children have no guarantee of meals, shelter, or an education. They need help. And they need the hope that only comes from salvation in Jesus Christ.

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

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

FORGED IN HOPE!

During the Mission Moment, your group will meet Agnes, an enthusiastic—if slightly clumsy—apprentice blacksmith who has a heart for children in need. As she helps her kingdom prepare for the upcoming battle, Agnes will share what she's learned about standing strong in God's truth. Every day, she'll introduce you to a child in another part of the world who needs your help.

Your mission is to collect coins to fill Children's Hunger Fund Coin Paks and help provide meals for children in need, just like the ones Agnes introduces throughout the week.

When your VBS children earn coins for their Coin Paks, they make it possible for Children's Hunger Fund to fill Food Paks. A Children's Hunger Fund Food Pak is a box of nutritious food that can provide meals for a family in need. In a Food Pak, a meal can be provided for just 25¢! A dollar can provide four meals for hungry children.

The Food Paks are provided to partner churches in the US and around the world who deliver them to homes of families in need. Along with food delivery, relationships are built and the gospel is shared.

The following items are available on the Resource USB or from AnswersVBS.com.

- Daily videos
- Daily scripts and activities
- Child Profile Slides—Daily profiles of the children your VBS students will meet. These informative prayer briefings will help your kids connect with the real needs of suffering children.
- Printable Prayer Journals—Five days of true stories about hungry children living in poverty.
- Printable “Map of the World” activity sheet, featuring locations of the children from the daily videos
- Printable banner artwork
- PowerPoint images to help your kids track their fundraising progress
- Printable fold-up Coin Pak bank for collecting coins
- Donation Submission Form to accompany your donation to CHF at the end of your VBS program

PURCHASING ITEMS

Included in your starter kit is a sample of the sturdy, pop-up Coin Pak bank, made for your kids to use as they collect quarters for meals. Check with your director for this sample. After VBS, these will be fun souvenirs that can be kept as reminders to always care for the needs of others. Coin Paks are available for purchase from Children's Hunger Fund.

To order Coin Paks, please visit ChildrensHungerFund.org/answers-vbs. To place an order over the phone, call Children's Hunger Fund at (800) 708-7589.

For questions regarding your Mission Moment resources, please call (800) 708-7589 or email vbs@childrenshungerfund.org.

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

COLLECTING DONATIONS

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

Once you've totaled your donations, please make out a check to Children's Hunger Fund and indicate "Forged in Hope" in the memo area and fill out the Donation Submission Form. Send your check with the Donation Submission Form (on the Resource USB) to:

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

Learn more about the gospel-centered mercy ministry of Children's Hunger Fund at ChildrensHungerFund.org.

TRACKING YOUR PROGRESS

To help your kids maintain their excitement, announce how many meals their coins can provide each day. Check with your director to find out when to do this: either during this time or during the opening or closing assembly time.

Here are fun ways to help your kids see their progress as they raise funds.

1. Show your progress with the Daily Count PowerPoint slides, found on the Resource USB. Update the slides with the total number of meals that can be provided each day.
2. Make your own goal tracker and update it throughout the week. Create or print an empty thermometer and put five equally spaced marks on it. Each day, fill in the thermometer up to the next mark and write the total number of meals that can be provided so far on the corresponding line.
3. Consider having a contest between boys and girls, or between teams, to see which group can bring in the most money. (Printable "teams" and "daily count" artwork are available to download.)

NOTE ON COUNTING COINS: It may be helpful to recruit two or three adult volunteers to count and/or roll the coins at the end of each day. Some banks provide a coin-counting service, but they may require several days to do so. Check ahead with your local bank.

The Wild Brothers

Mike and Libby Wild and their four sons (Morgan, Hudson, Kian, and Asher) are a missionary family with Beyond the Reef, ministering to an unreached people group in Asia Pacific. Their four sons have produced high-quality videos about their adventures living in a remote area and exploring the jungle around them. Find out more about the Wild Brothers at TheWildBrothers.com.

In partnership with Answers VBS, they have also produced five short videos for you to share with your kids during this time. These videos are available on the Resource USB or from AnswersVBS.com.

Daily Scripts

Day 1: EHANI (NEPAL)

SHOW: “Forged in Hope” slide

As we spend this week learning about standing strong in God’s truth, we are also going to get the chance to meet a boy or girl living in a different part of the world. We are partnering with Children’s Hunger Fund to help children who are living in poor conditions and don’t have enough to eat.

But the best part is that you can help them! And along with sending food, you can help them hear about the truth of the gospel, too!

SHOW: “Forged in Hope—Ehani” slide

Are you ready to meet the first child? *Pause for participation.* Great! Today, we’re going to meet a very little girl named Ehani (eh-ha-nee), who lives in the country of Nepal.

SHOW: Video 1—Ehani

Country: Nepal

Problem: Generational poverty

Ehani doesn’t have the same opportunities that you have here. If her mom can’t afford school supplies, Ehani doesn’t get to go to school. Without an education, Ehani’s children could live in poverty someday, too. Thankfully, a pastor from a local church came to break the cycle of poverty for Ehani and her family!

Do you want to help kids like Ehani? *Pause for participation.* Great! This week at VBS, we will be collecting coins to put in these Coin Paks [show Coin Pak]. Take this home today and tell your family and

friends about Ehani. Ask them to help you collect coins for meals. Only 25 cents can provide a nutritious meal for a hungry child.

These meals will be packed into a Children's Hunger Fund Food Pak, which is a box of nutritious food. This will be enough to feed a family for several days.

Each day this week, bring back any coins you've collected, and we'll count how many meals you've given so far. With your help, we can deliver hope to suffering families all over the world.

DO MISSION ACTIVITY: A HEAVY LOAD

1. Divide students into groups of 5–8 (adjust for the size of your VBS). Have the students in each group line up in rows.
2. Have the first student in each row place a backpack on their backs.
3. Add one heavy object to each backpack.
4. Ask the student to do a variety of activities (e.g., jumping jacks, squats, push-ups, run to the other side of the room and back).
5. Pass the backpack to the next student in the row and add another heavy item.
6. Ask the students to do the same activities as the last group.
7. Repeat this process with each student, adding more items each time the backpack is passed to the next person.

TALKING POINTS

- For those of you with the nearly empty backpack, was it hard to do the different activities?
- What about those of you with a few more things in your backpack? Was it hard to move around with more weight on your shoulders?
- What about those of you at the end with the full backpack? How did you feel doing those different activities?
- Generational poverty means you are impacted by the poverty you inherited from the generation before you.
- For those of you with a lighter backpack, there wasn't much that was holding you back, was there? Children with regular meals and access to education and resources don't have much that holds them back from chasing their dreams.
- For those of you with a heavier backpack, you had more of a challenge, didn't you? It was a lot harder for you to do the same things that the other kids did with ease.

- Ehani and many children like her around the world have much bigger challenges to overcome so that they can do basic things like go to school and eat regular meals.
- What are some ways that you can help people like Ehani to have a better future and help her break the cycle of poverty?

Send each child home with a “Ehani” prayer journal.

Do the “Map of the World” activity sheets. Pass out the maps and have kids cut and paste the item for today on the map. Then collect the maps when you’re finished with the activity.

Day 2: Chiumbo (Kenya)

SHOW: “Forged in Hope” slide

Do you guys remember Agnes who we met yesterday? She’s going to be introducing us to children around the world who need to hear about God’s truth. Each one of these children lives in poverty, and you will have a chance to help them!

Have you started collecting coins for your Coin Pak yet? *Pause for participation.* Great! Remember, each quarter you put into your Coin Pak means one meal for a hungry child.

SHOW: “Forged in Hope—Chiumbo” slide

Today, Agnes is going to introduce us to a little boy named Chiumbo, who lives in the country of Kenya. Let’s hear his story.

SHOW: Video 2—Chiumbo

Country: Kenya

Problem: Orphan

Chiumbo’s story is very different from the story we heard yesterday, isn’t it? In the story we heard yesterday, Ehani has a mother to care for her and her sister. Chiumbo doesn’t know where his parents are.

But despite his circumstances, Chiumbo is pretty blessed, right? The woman who found him took him in and continues to care for him. A local pastor comes to visit, bringing food to eat. He even takes the kids to learn about God’s Word!

Did everyone take home their Coin Paks? *Pause for participation.* Did you tell anyone what we are collecting coins for? *Pause for participation.* Every 25 cents you collect this week means one meal for a child like Chiumbo—a child who doesn’t know when they will get their next meal. You are helping to deliver hope to suffering children around the world.