

SWEET SADIE'S SNACKS

Answers VBS
WONDER
JUNCTION



COURSE OVERVIEW

Theme Verse: Psalm 113:3

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
	The Wonder of His Birth	The Wonder of His Childhood	The Wonder of His Ministry Years	The Wonder of His Death & Resurrection	The Wonder of His Return
Title	Jesus Is Born	Jesus at the Temple	Jesus Does Wondrous Things	Jesus Dies and Lives Again	Jesus Is Coming Back
Bible Passages	Matthew 1–2; Luke 2	Luke 2:39–52	Selections from the Gospel of Mark	Select verses; Matthew 27–28	Select verses; Matthew 25:14–29
Lesson Focus	The baby King's birth was a wonder. What amazing happenings surrounded it?	The young King's childhood was a wonder. What was he like as a child and teen?	The adult King's ministry years were a wonder. What astonishing things occurred?	The risen King's death and resurrection were a wonder. How were they like no other?	The return of the King of kings will be a wonder. What should we be doing in the meantime?
Apologetics Content	Is Jesus the most important person ever born?	Is Jesus God or man—or both?	Has anyone else had the power to raise himself from the dead?	Was Jesus completely dead?	How will Jesus return?
Gold Mine Memory Time	John 1:14	Luke 2:52	John 21:25	John 20:31	Matthew 6:10
Names of Jesus	Creator, Immanuel	Carpenter	Almighty	Savior	King of Kings
Animal Pals	Tiny the Cougar Kitten	Junior the Wolf Pup	Mighty the Bison	Champ the Grizzly Bear	Mission the Horse
Carpenter Joe's Crafts	Christmas Crèche Ticket to Ride Ornament	Covered Wagon Conversations Mini Horseshoes Game	Praise Journal Names of Jesus Print	Spikes Cross Necklace Sunset Silhouette	Money Pouch Wonder Junction Bank
Carpenter Joe's Science	Star of Wonder Cone in a Cornfield	Lasso Lesson Layers upon Layers	Weather the Storm Power Play	Riding the Rails Pushy Plates	Spread the Word Marvelous Magnetism
Sweet Sadie's Snacks	Gold Nuggets Biscuit Baby	Carpenter Scraps Wolf Puppy Chow	Mini Flapjacks Loaves & Fish	Light & Dark Breadstick Rattler	Pizza Wheels Apple Wheels
Gallopin' Gabe's Games	Nativity Stations Catch the Caboose	Tough Trials Obstacle Course Annie, Annie Over	Mercantile Mania Name Above All Names Scavenger Hunt	Safecracker Make Your Claim	Wild West Relays Sheriff's Coming
Cool Contests	Guess the Gold Nuggets	Spirit of the West Day	Old West Dress-Up Day	Names of Jesus Challenge	Mission Money Mania



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Sweet Sadie's Snacks

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HANDY HELPS

YEE-HAW!

Howdy, partners!

Look to your left—do you see the cattle over yonder stampeding across the plains? Look to your right—can your eyes make out the sun-covered buttes of the desert? Look behind you—the brand-new transcontinental railroad is rumbling along the tracks! From the Badlands of South Dakota to the high peaks of the Rockies, there is wonder to be discovered everywhere we turn in the Old West!

Join us as we gallop through the wonder-filled West, where our friends at Wonder Junction will teach us about the grandest wonder of all—Jesus Christ. Each day, we'll dig deeper into who this awe-inspiring Jesus is, answering questions such as:

- What amazing things happened surrounding Jesus' birth?
- What was Jesus like as a child and teen?
- What wonders occurred during Jesus' ministry years?
- How were Jesus' death and resurrection like no other?
- What should we be doing as we wait for Jesus' return?

Wonder and amazement await us each day at Wonder Junction, where kids will gather at the **All Aboard Assembly**, a high-energy beginning that includes wacky intros, lively songs, a mission moment, and prayer.

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

High Point Bible Time, where God's Word is taught in creative, hands-on ways.

Carpenter Joe's Science and Crafts, where kids get their hands dirty as they make crafts and explore God's world through science experiments.

Sweet Sadie's Snacks, where kids munch on some downright tasty home-cooked vittles.

Gallop in' Gabe's Games, the rambunctious rec time where kids might just get plumb tuckered out.

Miss Millie's Missions, Music, and Memory Verses,

where kids sing songs, learn their memory verses, or go in-depth with the mission moment featuring Children's Hunger Fund.

Finally, everyone is rounded up to head back to the **All Aboard Assembly** for the closing, where there's more singing, contest results, and the highly anticipated daily drama that highlights the shenanigans of two bumbling bandits who are transformed after learning about the wonderful life of Jesus Christ.

So dust off your boots, grab your bandana, and get ready for a rootin' tootin' good ol' time at Wonder Junction!

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!

YOUR ROLE

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

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

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

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

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

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.

Partners (as in, “Howdy, partners!”): Groups of children (individual classes) named after Old West people, such as Miners, Ranchers, Blacksmiths, and Homesteaders.

Group Guides: Group leaders who guide the partners from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required of this position.

High Point Bible Time: Bible and apologetics lesson time happening at the High Point Chapel.

Truth Teachers: Teachers of the High Point Bible Time.

Carpenter Joe’s Science and Crafts: Rotation site where crafts are made and science experiments are explored.

Sweet Sadie’s Snacks: Indoor or outdoor location where snacks are served.

Gallop in’ Gabe’s Games: Indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred) for recreation time.

Miss Millie’s Missions, Music, and Memory Verses: Rotation site where kids can spend additional time learning songs and memory verses and hearing about missions.

Gold Mine Memory Time: Time to learn and practice the daily Bible verse.

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 travel groups, we recommend using the material for the Primaries.

TOP 20 TIPS FOR SWEET SADIE'S SNACKS

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

TODDLER SNACKS

Day 1

Cougar Claws (per person)

- 1 oz. Cheetos Paws or Chester's Paws
- Cup or bowl for serving
- Optional: use cheese curls and call them Cougar Tails

Place approximately 1 oz. portions of paw-shaped cheese snacks into bowls or cups for each child. Optional: decorate containers using a paw print or cat stamp, drawing your own design with a permanent marker, or applying stickers.



TEACHING TIE-IN

Today we're learning about our animal pal, Tiny the cougar kitten. What sound do you think a cougar makes? [Take responses](#). Cougar kittens are baby cougars, which remind us of how Jesus was also little when he came to earth. He was born as a baby even though he was God!

Biscuit Baby (per person)

- 1 shortcake or biscuit
- 1 T. apple butter or strawberry preserves/pie filling
- Sprinkles
- Whipped topping
- Small plate for serving

See p. 10 of this guide for directions and the Teaching Tie-In. Adjust serving size as needed for younger children.

Day 2

Wolf Puppy Chow (per 10 half-cup servings)

- 2 c. Chocolate Chex cereal
- ½ c. M&M's
- 3 c. Cheerios
- Cups or bowls for serving

See p. 14 of this guide for directions, but make this simplified version. Adjust serving size as needed for younger children.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Today our animal pal is a wolf. Do any of you have a dog at home? [Take responses](#). A wolf is like a dog, but it lives in the wild, not in a house. Our pal, Junior the wolf pup, is a young wolf who will grow up to be a big wolf. Junior reminds us that Jesus was young once too. How old are you? [Take responses](#). Even though he's God, Jesus knows what it's like to be your age because he was little just like you when he lived on earth.

Carpenter Scraps (per person)

- 1 pretzel rod
- 2 pretzel sticks
- 1–2 rectangular graham crackers
- 6 pieces of Honeycomb cereal
- 6 chocolate chips
- Zippered baggie for serving

See p. 12 of this guide for directions and the Teaching Tie-In. Adjust ingredients and serving size as needed for younger children.

Day 3

Bison Bites (for 14 bites)

- 2 c. chow mein noodles
- 1 c. butterscotch chips
- ½ c. milk chocolate chips
- Wax paper
- Cupcake liners for serving



Melt butterscotch and milk chocolate chips in the microwave at 15- to 30-second intervals, stirring in between. Pour melted chips over chow mein noodles and form into small "haystacks" by dropping spoonfuls onto wax paper.

Chill in the fridge until firm, about 2 hours. Store in an airtight container up to one week.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Do you know what bison like to eat for food? [Take responses](#). They like to eat hay! Today our snack looks like hay, doesn't it? Our animal pal, Mighty the bison, would love hay. He also loves to teach us about how awesome and mighty Jesus is!

Mini Flapjacks (per 6–7 servings)

- Pancake mix OR
- 1 c. all-purpose flour
- 2 T. sugar
- 2½ t. baking powder
- ¾ c. milk
- 1 large egg
- 2 T. salted butter, melted
- Optional: mix-ins (fruit, chocolate chips, etc.)
- Syrup
- Plates for serving

See p. 16 of this guide for directions and the Teaching Tie-In. Adjust serving size as needed for younger children.

Day 4

Bear Face (per person)

- 1 piece circular bread or toast
- 1 t. butter
- 1 t. cinnamon
- 3 t. sugar
- 3 banana slices
- 1 blueberry
- 2 chocolate chips
- Small plate for serving



Cut bread or toast into circles, using the rim of a glass or a round cookie cutter. Spread butter over it. Mix cinnamon and sugar together, then dust over the buttered bread. For ears, place two banana slices at the top of the bread on each side. Use the third banana slice and a blueberry for the nose and the two chocolate chips for eyes.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Today we're eating a bear face. What sound do bears make? [Take responses](#). Cowboys and cowgirls in the West had to be careful when they met bears. Bears are really big and strong, aren't they? Today our animal pal, Champ the grizzly bear, is teaching us that Jesus was a champion like no other because he died and came back to life!

Breadstick Rattler (per 8 servings)

- 1 can crescent roll dough
- Regular or black sesame seeds
- 1 package red licorice
- 1 jar marinara sauce
- Small plate for serving

See p. 22 of this guide for directions and the Teaching Tie-In. Adjust ingredients and serving size as needed for younger children.

Day 5

Horse Feed (per person)

- 1 c. Veggie Straws
- Small paper bag for serving

Place Veggie Straws in small paper bags with edges folded down.



TEACHING TIE-IN

Our snack today is similar to what our animal pal, Mission the horse, might eat. Can you chew like horses chew? [Pause as they try](#). Mission the horse reminds us that we can do good works for God while we wait for the day when Jesus comes back to our world!

Pizza Wheels (per person)

- ½ English muffin (one side)
- 2 T. marinara sauce
- ½ cheese stick, cut into 6 strips (to make 6 spokes)
- Optional: 1 mini pepperoni
- Small plate for serving

See p. 24 of this guide for directions and the Teaching Tie-In. Adjust ingredients and serving size as needed for younger children.

DAY 1

GOLD NUGGETS

Ingredients (12 one-cup servings)

- Packaged cheese-flavored popcorn OR:
- ½ c. popcorn kernels
- 3 T. cooking oil
- ¼ c. melted butter
- 3 T. powdered cheese sauce mix

Sparkling Lemonade Drink Ingredients

- Powdered lemonade drink mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children
- Sparkling water, a dash per cup

Basic Supplies

- Measuring cups and spoons
- Large saucepan with lid
- Large bowl
- Mixing spoons
- Unbleached coffee filters for serving
- Themed napkins and cups
- Drink pitchers or coolers

Prep

1. To make your own popcorn, cover the bottom of the large saucepan with approximately 3 T. cooking oil. Add the popcorn, then heat on high. Cover with a lid and shake the pan occasionally, especially when popping begins.
2. When popping is finished, put popcorn into a large bowl and pour melted butter over it. Toss to coat.
3. Sprinkle the powdered cheese sauce mix over the popcorn (one tablespoon at a time until desired amount), tossing to coat.
4. Place 1 cup of popcorn into each coffee filter (“gold pan”) to serve.
5. Prepare drink according to package directions. Add a dash of sparkling water to each cup right before serving.

Tip Corner

- Each ½ c. of unpopped popcorn yields about 12 one-cup servings.
- Do not salt the popcorn before adding the powdered cheese sauce mix.
- If you are making a large amount of this snack, powdered cheese sauce mix can be found at restaurant supply stores. For a smaller amount, cheese powder can be found in the spice aisle or popcorn aisle at the grocery store.



- Brown lunch sacks (with the tops cut off to make a smaller bag) can be used in place of coffee filters.
- Bright yellow or western-themed napkins and cups can be fun today.
- Drink boxes or water bottles can be used any day this week if desired.

Teaching Tie-In

Pray for the snack. As everyone munches, say:

Our gold nuggets snack reminds us of one of the wonders of the Old West that sent people moving by the thousands to strike it rich—gold! Can you imagine how excited and astonished you'd be if you came across a mother lode of gold? What do you think you would have bought first? *Take responses.*

Well, this week we'll be learning about an even greater treasure than gold—Jesus Christ. It sounds nice to say that Jesus is greater than all the gold in the world, but stop and really think about that. Do you believe it? *Pause.* Does Jesus seem like a greater treasure than ___ (fill in the blank with things kids like)? What kinds of things tempt us

from remembering Jesus is worth everything? *Take responses.* Remember, all good things we have are gifts that come from God to be enjoyed. Let's thank God for them—but remember, Jesus is so much better!

Use the rest of your time to share the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts below.

Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- Would you have wanted to live during the time of cowboys, cowgirls, trains, and gold mining?
- What would you do first if you struck it rich?
- We're talking about the wonder of Jesus' birth today. When Mary gave birth to Jesus, she was probably just a young teenager because women in Bible times often married much younger than they typically do nowadays. What do you think is a good age to get married?

Super Simple Option

Gold Nuggets (store-bought)—Buy individual bags of pre-made cheesy popcorn in the snack section of the grocery store.

DAY 1 OVERVIEW

The Wonder of His Birth

Lesson Focus		Bible Passages	
The baby King's birth was a wonder. What amazing happenings surrounded it?		Matthew 1–2; Luke 2	
Memory Verse	Animal Pal	Cool Contest	
John 1:14	Tiny the Cougar Kitten	Guess the Gold Nuggets	
Science and Crafts	Treats	Games	
Experiments: Star of Wonder / Cone in a Cornfield Crafts: Christmas Crêche / Ticket to Ride Ornament	Gold Nuggets Biscuit Baby	Nativity Stations Catch the Caboose	

DAY 1

BISCUIT BABY

Ingredients (per person)

- Shortcake or biscuit
- 1 T. apple butter or strawberry preserves/pie filling
- Sprinkles
- Whipped topping

Sparkling Lemonade Drink Ingredients

- Powdered lemonade drink mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children
- Sparkling water, a dash per cup

Basic Supplies

- Baking sheet (if baking biscuits)
- Measuring spoons
- Themed bowls, cups, and napkins
- Plastic spoons
- Drink pitchers or coolers

Prep

1. If using biscuits, bake according to package directions.
2. Place one shortcake or biscuit into each bowl.
3. Put a tablespoon of strawberry preserves or apple butter in the center of the shortcake or biscuit as the baby.
4. Put three sprinkles on the spread: two for the baby's eyes and one for its mouth.
5. Just before serving, cover the rest of the baby with whipped topping for the blanket/swaddling cloths.
6. Prepare drink according to package directions. Add a dash of sparkling water to each cup right before serving.

Tip Corner

- Look for packs of 4 or 6 shortcakes in the bakery section of your local grocery store.
- Check the refrigerator section for tubes of biscuits, or make your own.
- You could also use mini chocolate chips or mini M&M's as the eyes instead of sprinkles.
- Christmas-themed bowls, napkins and cups can be a fun addition to this snack.



Teaching Tie-In

Pray and thank God for the snack. Before eating, say:

Does anyone know who this “baby” in our snack today reminds us of? *Take responses.* We’re learning about Jesus and the wonder of his birth. Jesus came as a baby to the world in a way people would never have expected. He was likely born in the lower level of a house where the animals were kept during the night. Normally a king was born in a palace or somewhere big and fancy, but not Jesus. From our point of view, it seems unexpected, but that was all part of God’s plan. What a wonder!

Use the rest of your time to share the *Conversation Starters and Fun Facts* below.

Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- Do you know where you were born?
- What is your favorite part of the story of Jesus’ birth?
- If you could be one person or animal in the nativity story, who would you want to be and why?
- Giving birth in the Old West was a lot different than nowadays. With few doctors and towns often far away, most ladies had their babies in their homes (or even on the trail) without medical help. Girls, what do you think about that?
- We’re talking about Jesus’ birth today. When Mary gave birth to Jesus, she was probably just a young teenager because women in Bible times often got married younger than they typically do nowadays. What do you think is a good age to get married?

Super Simple Option

Star-Shaped Snacks—Serve any star-shaped snacks that you can find at your local grocery store. These are particularly available around the Fourth of July.

Healthy Options

Wonder Star—Cut fruit, cheese, or veggies into a star shape, using a small star cookie cutter. Talk about the star that was part of the wonder of Jesus’ infancy.

Train Track Treat—Lay two pretzel rods next to each other with pretzel sticks laying across them to look like a train track. Optional: secure pretzel sticks with hummus, guacamole, or soft cheese. Discuss how transportation by train revolutionized the Old West.

Toddler Options

Check the *Toddler Snacks* for daily suggested snacks with Teaching Tie-Ins.

If you choose to serve other snack options included in this book, make sure they are safe for toddlers, with no choking hazards.

