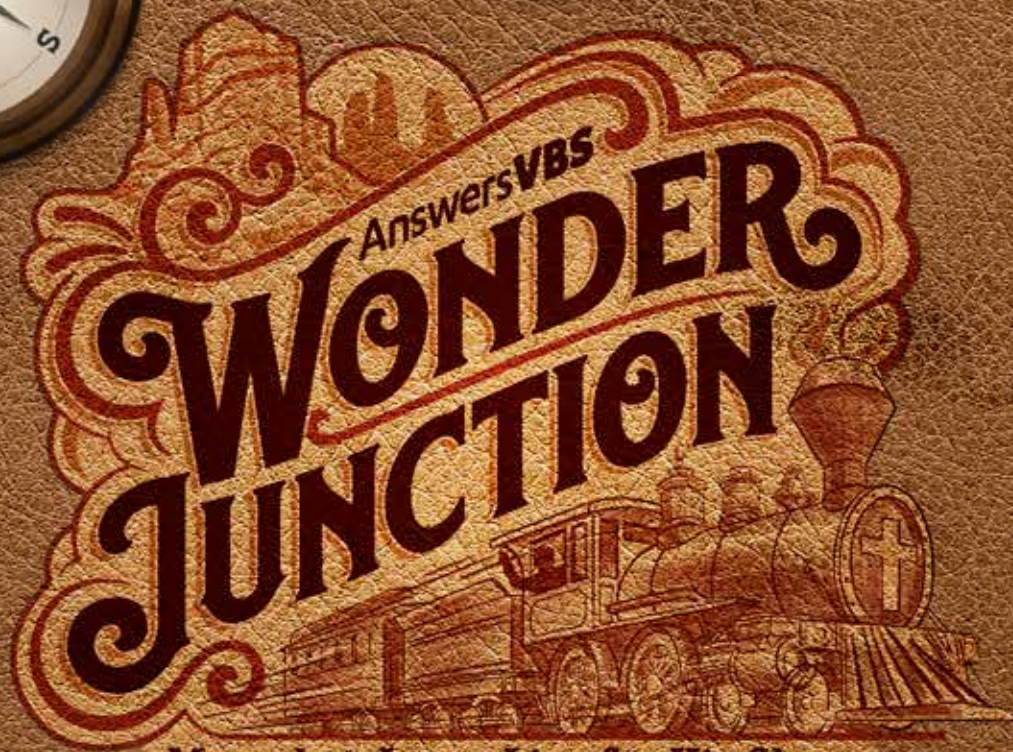


HIGH POINT BIBLE TIME

# JUNIOR



*Marvel at Jesus. Live for His Glory*

TEACHER  
GUIDE



# COURSE OVERVIEW

**Theme Verse: Psalm 113:3**

	<b>Day 1</b> The <b>Wonder</b> of His Birth	<b>Day 2</b> The <b>Wonder</b> of His Childhood	<b>Day 3</b> The <b>Wonder</b> of His Ministry Years	<b>Day 4</b> The <b>Wonder</b> of His Death and Resurrection	<b>Day 5</b> The <b>Wonder</b> of His Return
<b>Title</b>	Jesus Is Born	Jesus at the Temple	Jesus Does Wondrous Things	Jesus Dies and Lives Again	Jesus Is Coming Back
<b>Bible Passages</b>	Matthew 1–2; Luke 2	Luke 2:39–52	Selections from the book of Mark	Select verses; Matthew 27–28	Select verses; Matthew 25:14–29
<b>Lesson Focus</b>	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?
<b>Apologetics Content</b>	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?
<b>Gold Mine Memory Time</b>	John 1:14	Luke 2:52	John 21:25	John 20:31	Matthew 6:10
<b>Names of Jesus</b>	Creator, Immanuel	Carpenter	Almighty	Savior	King of Kings
<b>Animal Pals</b>	Tiny the Cougar Kitten	Junior the Wolf Pup	Mighty the Bison	Champ the Grizzly Bear	Mission the Horse
<b>Carpenter Joe's Crafts</b>	Christmas Crèche Ticket to Ride Ornament	Covered Wagon Conversations Mini Horseshoe Game	Praise Journal Names of Jesus Print	Spikes Cross Necklace Sunset Silhouette	Money Pouch Wonder Junction Bank
<b>Carpenter Joe's Science</b>	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
<b>Sweet Sadie's Snacks</b>	Gold Nuggets Biscuit Baby	Carpenter Scraps Wolf Puppy Chow	Mini Flapjacks Loaves & Fish	Light & Dark Breadstick Rattler	Pizza Wheels Apple Wheels
<b>Gallopin' Gabe's Games</b>	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
<b>Cool Contests</b>	Guess the Gold Coins	Spirit of the West Day	Old West Dress-Up Day	Names of Jesus Challenge	Mission Money Mania



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## Junior Teacher Guide

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

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

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

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The content of *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](http://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.

**Gallopin’ 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 TEACHING TIPS FOR TEACHERS

1. Pray and study God's Word. This is your most important preparation. God has entrusted you with the awesome privilege of sharing his Word, so be well prepared. "We will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4).
2. Read through all your lesson plans well in advance and become familiar with the resources at [Begin to pray and plan now](#), and continue to pray during and after VBS.
3. In this guide:
  - » Teaching Tips are marked with a ★.
  - » Materials for each activity are listed next to the activity.
  - » The "teacher says" portion is bold.
4. You may want to assign the task of gathering supplies for all the teachers to one person or have the teachers divide up the supply list, with each being responsible for multiples of certain items. It's also helpful to get all the supplies ready in a box or bag ahead of time rather than gathering them day-by-day the week of VBS.
5. See [Decorating Decisions](#) for a picture and description of the teaching set. Also, when setting up the room, you may want to clear away tables and chairs, depending on the room size and number of children expected.
6. Attend the Teacher Workshop and the Gospel Workshop. Be prepared to share the good news of salvation.
7. Dress in Old West period clothes, such as a vest and cowboy hat or a prairie costume. You can also wear the T-shirt, hat, and vest available from the [Resource Catalog](#).
8. Take on a persona to bring lessons to life. You may want to make up a fun name, dress in character and talk in first person, adopt a western drawl, or add something new to your "costume" each day, such as small stuffed animals added to pockets of a vest. Teach in a way that makes you feel comfortable.
9. Call the children by name. Name tags help with this.
10. Keep eye contact as you share the lessons, ensuring each child senses your warmth and care.
11. Children will be at various levels of spiritual comprehension. Pray for the Lord to take the message and do with it as he wills: plant seeds, bring to salvation, or strengthen and grow those who are already believers.
12. Have Bible passages from the lessons bookmarked ahead of time and use your Bible throughout the lessons at the appropriate times. Show through your facial expressions and your actions the importance of the Scriptures.
13. Show love. All children, regardless of age or appearance, need to be loved. Greet them warmly each day, and always be ready with smiles, encouraging words, and appropriate hugs.
14. Be aware of your church's safety protocols and appropriate touching policies. Check the [Digital Resources](#) for more information.
15. Be all there. Try to leave behind whatever is currently going on in your life and focus your attention on the children under your care.
16. When kids are sitting on the floor for drawing or writing activities, give them a firm surface (clipboards, old magazines, or books) to use underneath the papers. Cut corrugated cardboard or coroplast sheets into 9 x 12-inch pieces and add a binder clip for inexpensive clipboards.
17. Notice the good. Children want attention and will sometimes resort to acting up in an effort to receive even negative attention. Be proactive by noticing and praising the things they do right. Be an encourager.
18. Children like order. Think through potential trouble spots in your day and decide on a firm, loving discipline strategy. Ask for help from experienced individuals.
19. Children generally rise to the level expected of them. Challenge them to work on memory verses and take-home student guides as well as other challenges. Some may even want to try the bonus memory passage.
20. Have fun! Teaching should be a joy for you. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

# TIPS FOR MANAGING A GROUP OF KIDS

Kids are fun, and kids have energy! Prepare to confidently lead them using the following strategies.

## Attention-Getters

**Call and Response**—Teach the kids that when a teacher says something, they should reply with something else. Practice the following ideas so kids know your expectations for responding:

- **Teacher:** Gotta go  
**Kids:** Buffalo
- **Teacher:** Better shake  
**Kids:** Rattlesnake
- **Teacher:** Chugga, chugga, chugga, chugga  
**Kids:** Choo choo
- **Teacher:** Crisscross (as they sit and cross legs)  
**Kids:** Big trail boss
- **Teacher:** Jesus loves me  
**Kids:** This I know  
**Teacher:** For the Bible  
**Kids:** Tells me so

**Train's a Comin'**—Make the sound of an oncoming train. Start softly and slowly with the sound (chugga-chugga-choo-choo) while making circles with your arms as wheels. Gradually get louder and faster as the train approaches, then reverse the motions and sounds to finish with everyone sitting quietly.

**Horse Gallop**—Check online for how to use finger snaps and claps to make it sound like a horse galloping. Begin slowly, then speed up.

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

**Countdown**—Hold up five fingers and count down from five to one. By the count of one, kids should be completely quiet.

**Soft Talk**—Start talking about something important very softly or in a whisper. Kids will often quiet down to hear what you are saying. Or say, “If you can hear me, clap once.” Continue softly with other commands.

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

## Lining Up to Walk Through the Building

**If You . . .**—For lining up, call out fun categories, such as the following:

- “If you are wearing green like a cactus, line up. Now, if you're wearing brown like a grizzly bear, 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 you are quiet, line up.”

## Proactive Tips

**Be Prepared**—One of the best ways to ward off discipline problems is to be prepared. Think through and organize your day, leaving no downtime. Keep things moving! This takes more effort on your part, but it's 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 needed, so giving them a responsibility is a way to show you trust them. Try putting them in charge of a simple task, such as 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!

**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.

## 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 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, try your command another way. “You can either sit with the rest of the group and listen 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 while 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.



# AGE-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS

Kids are awesome! Each one is unique and is a special creation from the hand of our amazing Creator. With all their uniqueness, however, they also share some common characteristics. That doesn't mean every child always exhibits the following characteristics at the suggested age, but these guidelines can be a benchmark to use when looking at characteristics of children as a whole. Understanding how God has wired different age groups can help us be more effective in teaching and interacting with them.

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

## CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN

Children have some common characteristics:

- They are born sinners.
- God has given each a conscience, and they (generally) want good to win over evil.
- God has shown himself to all children through his creation, making it obvious to all that there is a Creator.
- Children enjoy active learning by moving around; seeing, touching, smelling, and hearing things; and being involved.
- Children need to be loved, encouraged, and praised.
- Children are rapidly growing and changing.
- Children trust the adults who are responsible for them.
- Children can get discouraged with criticism and failure.
- Children are eager to learn and are curious about the world and about God.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF JUNIORS

### Physical Characteristics

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

### Takeaways for Us

- Don't comment on physical appearance, such as how tall someone is. Juniors can feel sensitive and awkward about their bodies.
- Make sure to help each child realize how special and uniquely created by God he or she is. Some have giftings/talents physically, some musically, some academically, etc. They need to be assured that they are God's masterpiece, created exactly as they are for a special purpose.

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

### Emotional/Social Characteristics

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

### Takeaways for Us

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

### Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

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

### Takeaways for Us

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



- reading plans, and encourage them to memorize passages of Scripture.
- Make sure to walk the walk and not just talk the talk. Kids 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.

## SPECIAL NEEDS

The *Special Needs Teacher Supplement* (1220530) can help you accommodate and modify these lessons for those who need it, either in your regular classroom or in a self-contained classroom.

## HIGH POINT BIBLE TIME

As we open God's Word during High Point Bible Time, we will learn about the wonder of Jesus. It will be the high point of our day.

The lesson time is written as a 35–40-minute period, divided into three sections.

**Introduce It!** (5–10 minutes): Each day, the kids will head to the High Point Chapel and have a lively intro to get the lesson going.

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

**Apply It!** (Remaining class time): This is the memory verse review and practical application time.

The lessons are jam-packed, so try to be organized and keep things moving. Ideas are written into each lesson

to help you adapt if you have a longer or shorter lesson time than 35–40 minutes. Because of the content-rich lessons, a little extra time is great if you can swing it! But if not, there are lots of options, so you may want to shorten or skip some activities.

The lesson format is written for a two-person team. One person serves as Teacher One and the other as Teacher Two or the Teaching Assistant. The lesson format can also work if teaching alone. If you are team teaching, decide ahead of time who will be responsible for what. If you are teaching alone, simply find someone (e.g., a staff person or teen volunteer) to help at any point you need an extra set of hands.

Below is a sample schedule of a typical day at VBS. Check with your director for a copy of the schedule and room assignment for your VBS.

## SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Time	Group One	Group Two	Group Three
9:00–9:15	All Aboard Assembly: Large Meeting Area (Everyone Together)		
9:20–10:00	High Point Bible Time	Carpenter Joe's Science and Crafts	Gallopin' Gabe's Games and Sweet Sadie's Snacks
10:05–10:45	Gallopin' Gabe's Games and Sweet Sadie's Snacks	High Point Bible Time	Carpenter Joe's Science and Crafts
10:50–11:30	Carpenter Joe's Science and Crafts	Gallopin' Gabe's Games and Sweet Sadie's Snacks	High Point Bible Time
11:35–Noon	All Aboard Assembly—Closing: Large Meeting Area (Everyone Together)		



# MEMORY VERSE SONGS

We have partnered with Seeds Kids Worship (contemporary, ESV) and Majesty Music (traditional, KJV) to create songs for each of the memory verses. They feature the full verses. (Pre-Primaries and Toddlers are taught condensed versions of these verses.) Singing Scripture is an excellent way for children to learn their Bible verses easily. You can use the songs (either video or audio)

during the memory verse time in each lesson. The Music Leader Download, which contains audio and videos, comes with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit and can also be purchased separately (5122234). If you would like each student to have a copy of the songs, student CDs in packs of 10 are available (1220610 or 1220620).

## STUDENT EXTRAS

Check with your VBS director and choose one or more of these fun optional materials so your students can take home a review of the daily lesson content.

Also, decide with your director when it works best to give out the various items: at the beginning of the day; during lesson time; during snack time (a good time to review); or at the end of the day (a good time to pass out student guides, bookmarks, and other items that need to make it home safely).

**Wonder Junction Map and Stickers:** Use these sticker sets as a fun, daily review of each lesson.

- 1220780, pack of 10

**Student Guides:** These age-appropriate guides feature a lesson review on the front of each daily take-home paper, as well as the memory verse and review game suggestion, and “Go and Do” section on the back that parallels the Apply It! part of the lesson. You can either go over these during class time or send them home to be completed with a parent or caretaker, which is what our test churches do. If you send the guides home, motivate the kids to do them because they are full of good stuff! Give them to the group guides to pass out at the end of the day. Then have them check with the kids the following day to see how they did, and consider asking your VBS director to give contest bonus points to the individuals and teams for their hard work.

- Primary ESV—1220710, pack of 10
- Primary KJV—1221320, pack of 10

**All Aboard Adventure Guide:** These fun, interactive booklets feature the daily memory verses, animal pals, stickers, and a place to stamp (1220930) for attendance. Check with your VBS director to find out when he or she would like to give these to the kids. They can receive them at any time during the first day. You can review them with the kids during the Apply It! section of the lesson if you have time, or they can be stamped as the kids arrive at VBS.

- Junior/Primary ESV—1220910, pack of 10
- Junior/Primary KJV—1221370, pack of 10

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

- Gospel—1220760, pack of 10—Day 4 or Day 5
- Names of Jesus—1220770, pack of 10—Day 5

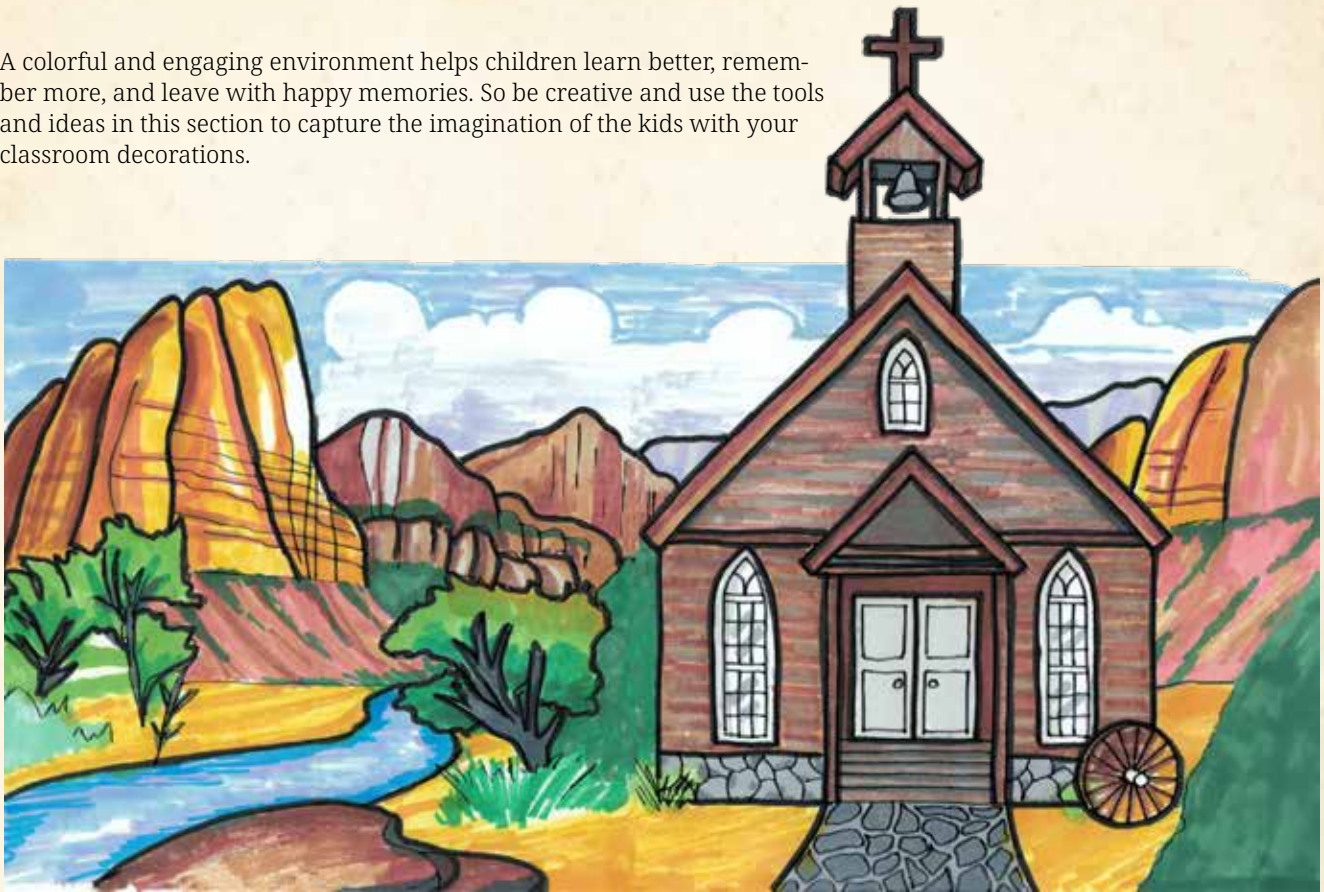
**Exploring God’s Word:** This little booklet encourages your students to continue discovering God’s Word for weeks after VBS has finished. It features a daily question and answer found in the Scripture verse. You or the group guides can pass one of these to each student on the last day of class at dismissal.

- 1220750, pack of 10



# DECORATING DECISIONS

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



## KEY DECORATING ELEMENTS

### High Point Chapel

To serve as a focal point for the teaching, the *Wonder Junction* classroom backdrop features an Old West country chapel in a southwestern desert setting. You can create your own artwork or see the Resource Download for clip art images of the chapel scene. Use an overhead projector to enlarge and transfer the images onto corrugated cardboard sheets, foam insulation board, or roll paper, then prop them up or mount them on a wall. You can feature the entire scene or keep it simple with just the chapel against a background of sky blue roll paper or plastic tablecloths.

#### HOW TO ENLARGE AND TRANSFER CLIP ART

1. Photocopy the clip art onto transparencies.
2. Place roll paper or a rigid material against a wall.
3. Using an overhead projector to enlarge the clip art, shine the image onto the paper or rigid material, adjusting it as necessary for the size desired.
4. Trace the image outlines onto the paper or rigid material.
5. Paint the image and cut it out.

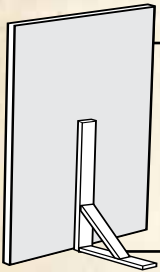
Check out [Pinterest.com/AnswersVBS](https://www.pinterest.com/AnswersVBS) for colorful photos of decorations from our test churches!  
Visit [YouTube.com/AnswersVBS](https://www.youtube.com/AnswersVBS) for how-to decorating videos!





## Classroom Scene Setter

As a quick and easy alternative to making your own classroom backdrop, a scene setter is available for purchase (1221260) from the Resource Catalog. Simply mount the panels onto a rigid material using double-sided carpet tape, clear packing tape, or staples, then prop them up with wooden supports (jacks). Or you can attach them directly to a wall with mounting putty, Mavalus tape, or double-sided tape on top of painter's tape.



Prop up your set, and any free-standing decorations, with wooden jacks made from 2 x 4, 2 x 3, or 2 x 2 boards, according to the size of your decorations. If necessary, jacks can be weighted down with bags of sand or road salt.

## Resource Posters

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

## Other Props, Tips & Miscellaneous Ideas

- Place a rug, or raised platform, in front of your backdrop to create a stage effect.
- Faux wood crates made from boxes, cardboard wagon wheels, coils of hemp rope, metal lanterns, and stuffed burlap sacks can be set around in groupings to fill empty spaces.
- Painted cardboard clouds, rocks, and tufts of grass can add a nice touch.
- Kids love animals, so be sure to include some in your decorating. See the Resource Download for clip art images or use a variety of stuffed animals.
- Add a thin (1/2-inch) black border to your painted props. This helps them stand out better and makes the colors appear more vibrant.
- Because corrugated cardboard tends to curl when only one side is painted, first apply a quick single coat of paint to the back.
- Don't forget to dress the part with Old West attire.



# WONDER JUNCTION LINGO

## OLD WEST

Yea or neigh	Yes or no	Get a wiggle on	Hurry up
Necessary	Outhouse	Apple-pie order	In top shape
Poppycock or skittles!	Nonsense	Higgledy-piggledy	In confusion
Togs	Clothing	Granger	Farmer
Right as rain	Fine	Hither and yon	Here and there
Tuckered out	Tired	Lickety-split	Fast
Shindig or hoedown	Party or celebration	Heap	A whole lot
Hobble your lip	Be quiet	On the fence	Undecided
Yarn	A story	Do-si-do on over	Come on over
Grand	Beautiful, excellent	Poppet	Term of endearment
Fetch	Bring	Stumped	Confused
Pony up or fork it over	Pay it out	Dude	An Easterner, someone in fancy clothes rather than work clothes
Trounce	Beat	Calaboose	Jail
Small fry	Children		
Hightail it	Leave quickly		

## FOOD

Cackleberries	Eggs	Goober peas	Peanuts
Skunk eggs	Onions	Wet your whistle	Drink something
Mysteries	Sausages	Snatch	A snack
Sinkers	Biscuits	Grub or chuck	Food
Cookie	Camp cook	Soft tack	Bread
Slapjacks	Pancakes	Brown gargle	Coffee



DAY 1

# THE WONDER OF HIS BIRTH



## **BIBLE PASSAGES**

Jesus Is Born  
Matthew 1–2; Luke 2

## **APOLOGETICS CONTENT**

Is Jesus the most important person ever born?

## **MEMORY VERSE**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory . . . full of grace and truth. John 1:14

## **NAMES OF JESUS**

Creator, Immanuel

## **LESSON FOCUS**

The baby King's birth was a wonder. What amazing happenings surrounded it?

## **ANIMAL PAL**

Tiny the Cougar Kitten

## ***Today's Lesson at a Glance***

- Introduce It!  
Wonder Junction Chapel and Train Depot
- Teach It!  
Part 1: The Wonder Weekly  
Part 2: Wonder of Jesus' Birth  
Part 3: Animal Pal Review and Game  
Option 1—Beat the Clock  
Option 2—Wonder Word Game
- Apply It!  
Part 1: Gold Mine Memory Time  
Part 2: Go and Do  
Part 3: Marvel-ous Moment

## ***Preparing for the Lesson***

- Read Matthew 1–2 and Luke 2 several times.
- Read this lesson thoroughly and prepare the materials.
- For more information on Jesus' birth, visit [AnswersVBS.com/wonderfaq](http://AnswersVBS.com/wonderfaq).
- Pray.





# DEVOTION I: TREASURE JESUS

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14*

Imagine your young daughter comes to you one day after finishing her chores and making the daily bread. She says, “Dear parents, as you know, our people have been promised a savior for hundreds of years. Even from the beginning, Yahweh has promised that he would send one to save his people from their sins. Today, an angel told me I would bear the Promised One! Mom, Dad—our Savior is coming! And it’s true what our prophet Isaiah said over 700 years ago—I have known no man, yet I am with child.”

Would you think she was crazy? Would you call to mind all the promises from the Law and the Prophets you’ve been taught since your childhood, mulling over each one, waiting to see if more than this one spoken by Isaiah would come to pass through your daughter and her child? Would you tick each one off your mental checklist?

- He was the child of a woman (Genesis 3:15). Check.
- Micah said he would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Check.
- Solomon said kings would worship him (Psalm 72:10–11). Check.
- Hosea said he would be called out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1). Check.

Is it really possible that one child could fulfill all these promises? Was your daughter telling the truth those many months ago? Could this child, whose name means “the Lord saves,” really be the promised one?

Those shepherds who came to visit the baby, wanting to see the Savior that had been born to us, Christ the Lord—did they really know what they were talking about? Is it our Savior? . . . This is our Savior!

As you read the passages revealing the events surrounding the birth of Christ for the umpteenth time, meditate on the events that set his birth apart from all others—the fulfillment of prophecy, the worship of shepherds and kings, the lowly manger cradling the King of kings. As you share the good news of the Creator who stepped into history as a baby, make sure your children know that this was no ordinary baby. This is Immanuel, God with us.

May we pray as the Puritans did:

O God, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds, and enlarge my mind;  
Let me hear good tidings of great joy, and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore,  
My conscience bathed in an ocean of repose, my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father;  
Place me with ox, ass, camel, goat, to look with them upon my redeemer’s face,  
And in him account myself delivered from sin;  
Let me with Simeon clasp the new-born child to my heart, embrace him with undying faith, exulting that he is mine and I am his.  
In him thou hast given me so much that heaven can give no more.

—Arthur Bennett, *The Valley of Vision*  
(The Banner of Truth Trust, 2005), 16.

# INTRODUCE IT!

At the start of each lesson, you will introduce the kids to different places in Wonder Junction. Today, it's the chapel and train depot.

## Wonder Junction Chapel and Train Depot (5 minutes)

**Prep:** Prepare your costumes. Bookmark the Scripture passages in your Bible for the whole lesson. Print and cut out the **DAY 1 NUGGET OF TRUTH**. (If you're in a large room, mount the **DAY 1 NUGGET OF TRUTH** on bright yellow painted corrugated cardboard or poster board to make it bigger. Cut out the cardboard or poster board to resemble a large gold nugget [bigger than an 8.5 by 11 sheet of paper so the pattern fits]). Hide the nugget somewhere high so it is just visible.

**Teacher 1:** Well howdy, y'all! I'm \_\_\_\_, and this here is \_\_\_\_. This week, we're imagining we're living in the Old West, where we'll find cowboys, and gold mines, and horses, and towns like Wonder Junction. We'll meet right here for the high point of our day at High Point Chapel, a mighty important building in town. Show the **WONDER JUNCTION POSTER** and point out the chapel.

**Teacher 2:** You know, the town of Wonder Junction has been here for a while, but there's never been anything that's caused such excitement as the newfangled train station and locomotive. Show the **WONDER JUNCTION POSTER** and point out where the train depot is.

**Teacher 1:** I have to admit, that train sure is a wonder to behold. Did you know the train is a new invention in the Old West? It was built to connect both sides of the US of A, the East and the West. Some people started building tracks in the East and others started in the West until they met in the middle, where they nailed in a final gold spike.

**Teacher 2:** It took about six years and 100 million dollars to build, but it was worth it! Before this train came along, it could take six months to get here by wagon, but now it takes less than a week! It sure is a wonder!

**Teacher 1:** And wow, are people ever riding that train and flocking here to see the wonders of the West. They're coming for gold, for land, for riches, for opportunities. But you know what? As amazing as those wonders are, they're nothin' compared to what we're gonna be talkin' about this week—the wonder of Jesus! Have ya heard of Jesus before—Jesus, who is God *and* God's Son? Pause for responses.

**Teacher 2:** We're going to be discovering nuggets of truth about Jesus that are *mind-blowing*! They sure fill me with wonder. Take a peek around the room and see if you can spy a gold nugget somewhere. It's our first nugget of truth. Do so, and have someone bring it to you, or have them all point to it. Read it slowly with amazement: "The Creator of babies became a baby himself!" That means Jesus created the universe and then came into the universe he created—as a baby. Wow! There sure never has been a more important person ever born, and there never will be.

**Teacher 1:** Whoa, whoa, hold on a minute. You mean a tiny, helpless, little baby? Like the kind that cry and spit up and need to be fed and changed and cared for? How could the *Creator* of babies be a baby?

**Teacher 2:** It's a wonder, that's for sure—*God became a baby*! Let that sink in as we pass out these newspapers, and then we'll explain more.

# TEACH IT!

## Part 1: The Wonder Weekly (10 minutes)

**Prep:** Cover each section of the **PROPHECY POSTER** with a piece of copy paper. Print the **WONDER WEEKLY NEWSPAPER** for each child on tan paper to look weathered. Optional: put the newspapers on a hard surface like a clipboard for each person.

Pass out a newspaper and writing utensil to each person.

**Teacher 1:** Alrighty, let's go back to the beginning to figure this out. We just said Jesus was the Creator. How do we know that?

- Wonder Junction Poster
- Day 1 Nugget of Truth and 1 sheet of bright yellow card stock (see Prep)
- Bible
- Old West costumes for teachers
- Mounting putty or tape for hanging posters



- ★ A shortened one-person script of the lesson is available to download.
- ★ Put all the materials each student needs each day in a zippered baggie. Place a baggie under each chair or have them ready to pass out.
- ★ Think of fun names for yourselves: Cactus Kate, Cowboy Joe, Prospector Pete, Rattlesnake Rachel, or Doc Henry.
- ★ The Bible is listed just once daily in the supply list but is used throughout, so keep it handy and marked at the correct passages.
- ★ Be familiar with the lesson, but don't memorize it. Place it on a clipboard to use as a reference.
- ★ If working as co-teachers, decide daily which parts of the lesson each of you will be responsible for teaching. Both plan to dress in costumes.
- ★ Mounting putty or tape is listed just once daily, but will be used whenever you hang up posters. Hang them up as you talk or just hold them up while teaching and hang them up after class.

- Prophecy Poster
- Wonder Weekly newspapers, 1 per person, on tan copy paper
- 4 sheets of copy paper and tape
- Writing utensils, 1 per person
- Optional: hard surfaces like a clipboard, 1 per person

★ Download from AnswersVBS.

◆ Find in your teacher kit.



**Teacher 2:** It says so right here in the good book, the Bible. Point to John 1. And remember, the Bible's the only book that's completely perfect and trustworthy because it's given to us by God. I'm gonna read something from the Bible, and every time I say "the Word," you say "Jesus." Here we go. Read John 1:1-3.

**Teacher 1:** Whoa, so are you saying Jesus created the sun and stars and plants and animals and people?

**Teacher 2:** Yep! Jesus didn't start out as a baby. He has existed forever and has always been God. At the beginning of time, he was there creating with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Let's draw a picture of creation in space one on our *Wonder Weekly* newspaper. Have kids do so, and continue on while they draw for a minute.

**Teacher 1:** Jesus created everything from the tiniest bug to the farthest planet. Here are just two of the kabillions of mind-blowing marvels he made:

- On the BIG scale, Jesus created all the billions upon billions of stars, including one you've heard of—our sun. He made the sun exactly the right size and placed it at exactly the right distance so we wouldn't be too close and get burnt to a crisp or too far and freeze like popsicles. We call our star the *sun*, but Jesus knows every star and calls each one in the universe by name (Psalm 147:4). Amazing!
- On the SMALL scale, Jesus created the honeybee. You may think of them as buzzing stingers, but they really are a marvel! Their fuzzy bodies collect pollen, which is kind of like valuable gold dust. The bees fly from plant to plant, leaving pollen on each one. They pollinate over 130 types of nuts, fruits, and vegetables that humans enjoy eating. The honeybee is helpful to us! Jesus' creations are a wonder!

**Teacher 2:** Well, after Jesus created the universe—then what happened?

**Teacher 1:** It's a long, true account you can read about here in this part of the Bible called the Old Testament (show), but basically, people messed up the perfect earth by sinning (not obeying God), and then they started looking for Jesus to come back to earth to save them from the mess.

**Teacher 2:** God used prophets to predict when Jesus would come as the Messiah, or King, who would save them. People throughout the Old Testament looked forward to when this King would come. They were so ready for him to arrive! Let's draw a picture of a crown in space 2. Have kids do so. Teacher 1 continues while they draw.

**Teacher 1:** Predictions about what will happen in the future are called prophecies. In the Bible, prophecies are promises from God about events in the future. Now, if God promises something, it will happen. Beware of fortune tellers and horoscopes. They are *not* from God and aren't accurate at predicting the future. But God is always right 100% of the time because he knows the future and exists outside of time.

**Teacher 2:** Let's look at a few Bible prophecies about Jesus coming to earth—the earth he made. All of these prophecies were made hundreds of years before Jesus came. Uncover the PROPHECY POSTER: MAP. Draw a star by the town of Bethlehem in space 3 as I read this. Have kids do so while you read Micah 5:2.

**Teacher 1:** Uncover the PROPHECY POSTER: JESUS IN A MANGER. Draw baby Jesus (or a manger) in space 4 while I read this prophecy. Have them do so while you read Isaiah 7:14.

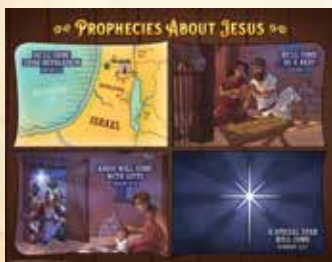
**Teacher 2:** Uncover the PROPHECY POSTER: WISE MEN WITH GIFTS. Draw a gift in space 5 while I read the next one. Have them do so while you read Psalm 72:10.

**Teacher 1:** Uncover the PROPHECY POSTER: SPECIAL STAR. Draw a special star in space 6 while I read this one. Have them do so while you read Numbers 24:17.

**Teacher 2:** So we know they were waiting for Jesus to come to the earth he created, and they thought he would come as a conquering King. They waited a really long time. Have you ever waited for something you *really* wanted for a *really* long time? Pause, and if you have time, share a quick story of a time you waited for something.

**Teacher 1:** After their long wait, do you think Jesus came and fulfilled all those prophecies? Pause. Yes, he sure did. He promised he would, and he did. He could have come into

★ Print pictures of these things to hold up, or, if you have the capability, show slides. You can add slides to any part of any lesson.



the world with fireworks, with a huge parade, or with thousands of angels at his side. How would you imagine he could have made his first appearance on earth? Take a couple responses. There never has been and never will be a more important person born than Jesus. Let's hear more about the most unusual way he came.

## Part 2: Wonder of Jesus' Birth (10 minutes)

**Prep:** Cover each section of the **WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER** with a piece of paper. Make the chenille stems bundles. Students will use two at a time, so it's fun to have two of the same color for the first round, two of another color for the next round, and so forth for rounds 3 and 4.

### Wonder 1: Angel

**Teacher 2:** The first unusual part of Jesus' wonder-filled birth is an angel. Uncover the **WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER: ANGEL**. Make an angel or something associated with an angel from two of your chenille stems while we talk more about it. Have kids do so as you continue with the following. God sent an angel to earth when he had special messages to deliver. From the Bible, we learn that before Mary was pregnant with Jesus, an angel visited her. Then on a separate visit, the angel visited his earthly dad, Joseph. Here's what the angel said. Read [Luke 1:30–33](#). And through the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary became pregnant with Jesus.

**Teacher 1:** Now put yourself in this scenario. Can you imagine if your mom had an angel visit her before she was pregnant with you? Maybe she was just sitting at the kitchen table and all of a sudden—whoosh—an angel appeared! How amazing would that be? Let's have everyone show right now, without talking, how you think you'd respond if an angel swooped in all of a sudden to talk to you. Do so. Mention that the Bible shares people's reactions, and they were usually afraid, including what we just read about Mary (verse 30).

**Teacher 2:** Well, that doesn't normally just happen—I mean, who has angels visiting before and after their birth? But for Jesus, it did, and it was a wonder!

**Teacher 1:** Now, let's see your angel creations. Have kids hold them up. That angel was just one of many wonders at Jesus' birth. Let's hear about another.

### Wonder 2: Shepherds with Angels

**Teacher 2:** Uncover the **WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER: SHEPHERDS**. The next wonder is what happened to some shepherds. Let's use two more chenille stems to make a shepherd or something associated with a shepherd to remind us of this wonder. Have kids do so while Teacher 1 continues on.

**Teacher 1:** I want you to imagine yourself there with the shepherds. Think about what you might be seeing, hearing, and feeling as you listen to what happened. Read [Luke 2:8–16](#). What reaction would you have had if you had been there? Show it now. Do so.

**Teacher 2:** This was the greatest sound and light show seen by man! Wow! You may want to quickly mention if you've ever seen a fireworks show, and how that was nothing compared to this. Or show a slide of it. What a wonder in the heavens! Then the shepherds went quickly to find Jesus. Think about how amazing that was. They found God *in the flesh*—meaning God took on skin and a body! God had elbows! God had toenails! God had bones! This is *God* we're talking about!

**Teacher 1:** Okay, let's see your shepherd creations. Have kids hold them up. Cool! But that's not all. Let's check out the next wonder.

### Wonder 3: Wise Men with Gifts and Special Star

**Teacher 2:** We talked about this one with the prophecies. Now let's hear how they came true hundreds of years later. Read [Matthew 2:9–11](#).

**Teacher 1:** Uncover the **WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER: WISE MEN WITH GIFTS/SPECIAL STAR**. Make something associated with the wise men or the special star while we continue. Have them do so without talking.

- Wonder-Filled Birth Poster
- 4 sheets of copy paper and tape
- Chenille stems, 8 per person bundled—4 colors of 2 each





**Teacher 2:** Let's just think about this for a minute. Who has important wise men showing up after their birth and giving them expensive gifts? Did any show up after you were born? Can you imagine if this happened to you? What would you want them to bring?

**Teacher 1:** And when do very important men bow down to other people—in particular, a baby?

**Teacher 2:** And who has a special star just for them in the sky? Okay, let's see your creations. *Have kids hold them up.* All these happenings are amazing wonders when you stop to think about them. But that's not all.

#### **Wonder 4: Jesus Wanting to Come**

**Teacher 1:** Maybe the most amazing wonder of all is Jesus *wanting* to come. He left heaven to come!

**Teacher 2:** Can you imagine what that would be like? Heaven—perfect and incredibly beautiful! And then he comes to earth.

**Teacher 1:** That might be like us leaving a nice home—like a mansion—to go to a dirty, smelly place. Picture that in your mind. And not only that, but he left as a king. Imagine a king with all his riches in a beautiful castle. The king gives all that up and becomes a lowly member of society, no longer recognized as king. Would you want to go from being a king to a poor man? *Uncover the WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER: MANSION.* Let's make something associated with a king. *Have them do so while Teacher 2 continues on.*

**Teacher 2:** Jesus did that—and he did it because he loves you and knows you need him to save you from your sins. We'll hear lots more about that this week.

**Teacher 1:** Let's end with this wonder-filled thought. Jesus is called Immanuel, which means God with us. If you are a Christian, do you realize God will never, ever NOT be with you?

- You can't see him, but he's right here.
- He's with you this very second and every other second of your life, no matter how you're feeling, what you're struggling with, or what's going on in your life.
- For instance, he knows what you're thinking . . . right now!
- He knows what you'll be doing 7 days, 3 hours, and 32 minutes from now.
- He knows what you'll be *feeling* 20 years from now on a Thursday morning.
- He knows you, and it's impossible for you to get away from him your whole life.
- He's *always* with you. So talk to him. He's Immanuel—"God with us!"

**Teacher 2:** Now, before we move on, let's see your king creations. *Have them hold them up, then continue on to the next part.*

#### **Part 3: Animal Pal Review and Game** (time varies)

Share the **DAY 1 ANIMAL PAL POSTER** to summarize the teaching of the day. Pass out the **MAP AND STICKER SETS** (available to purchase from AnswersVBS.com), one set per person. Each day, the kids will add that day's animal pal. If you have a large group, don't put names on them—this makes it faster to pass them out on the following days. Another option is to review daily but to wait until the last day to pass out the map and sticker sets.

Show the **DAY 1 ANIMAL PAL POSTER**. Let's take a look at our animal pal poster to remember what we talked about today. Our animal pal is a cougar kitten. What's her name? *Take answers—Tiny.* What does her name have to do with Jesus' birth? *Take answers. Jesus came as a tiny baby.* What are some things you learned today about the wonder of Jesus' birth? *Take answers. Why does Jesus' birth matter? Take answers. Discuss the following:*

- It matters because thinking about the wonder of Jesus can strengthen our faith.
- It matters because Jesus *came*—Immanuel, God with us. That means if you are a child of God, you are never, ever, ever alone again. If you're lying in bed feeling

★ **Gospel Opportunity:** For believers, God is present to comfort us, teach us, help us. But if you are not part of God's family, you will not experience his presence in the same comforting way because you don't have a relationship with him.

- Day 1 Animal Pal Poster
- Wonder Junction Maps and Tiny stickers (1220780), 1 per person
- Option 1 Game: phone timer and (optional) small prizes
- Option 2 Game: *Yea and Neigh Cards* (1 paper-clipped set on card stock per person), *Baby King Letters* (2 sets), and small nontransparent bag



★ Download from AnswersVBS.

◆ Find in your teacher kit.

anxious, Jesus is with you. If you're having a bad day, Jesus is with you. And he cares. Talk to him!

- It also matters because we don't have to wait or search for someone or something that is the answer. *Jesus is the answer!* No other religion or person or system is the answer—only Jesus. People try to find happiness in any number of things—sports, hobbies, buying stuff—or in people. Although those things can be good, and God gives us all wonderful good things and people to enjoy, Jesus is the greatest treasure and the one we should live for.

Collect the maps and stickers. If there is time, play a review game. Two options are given below—one that takes just a minute or so, and one that takes a little longer. If playing Option 1, use the questions below. If playing Option 2, use the questions below, converting them to ye (yes) or neigh (no) answers, plus add additional questions you make up if needed.

### **Option 1: Beat the Clock**

**Directions:** Put 60 seconds on a phone timer. On "Go," ask a question and have everyone shout out an answer at the same time. As soon as you hear someone say the correct answer, acknowledge it and move to the next question. The goal is to get all ten questions answered correctly before the 60 seconds are up. Remind kids to be quiet when you read the next question or you will have to repeat it, which takes longer. You can play just for fun, or if they beat the clock, you can give everyone a small prize, such as a gold coin or a sticker (both available in the Resource Catalog) or small, individually wrapped candy. To save time, give the prizes to the guides, who can pass them out later.

### **Questions**

1. Who is the most important person ever born—past, present, and future? *Jesus*
2. What kind of animal is today's animal pal? *A cougar kitten*
3. Why is she named Tiny? *It reminds us that Jesus came as a tiny baby.*
4. Finish the next word of the memory verse: And the Word became \_\_\_\_\_. *Flesh*
5. A prediction that was given hundreds of years before it happened said Jesus would be born in the town of \_\_\_\_\_. *Bethlehem—the place of Jesus' birth is a wonder.*
6. Another prediction given hundreds of years earlier said kings would come and give Jesus \_\_\_\_\_. *Gifts—it's a wonder that kings bowed down to a baby.*
7. It's a wonder that the Creator became part of his \_\_\_\_\_. *Creation*
8. Name a wonder that happened to Mary before Jesus' birth. *An angel visited her with a special message.*
9. How many amazing gifts were given to Jesus after he was born? *Three. Gold (symbolizing Jesus as king), frankincense (symbolizing worshipping Jesus—frankincense was used in worship in the temple), and myrrh (symbolizing Jesus' death—myrrh was used in burials).*
10. True or false: It matters that Jesus came because we don't have to keep looking for answers. *True. Thinking about the wonders of Jesus can strengthen our faith.*

### **Option 2: Wonder Word Game**

**Prep:** Print on card stock, cut, and paper clip sets of the **YEA AND NEIGH CARDS**, 1 set per person. Print on card stock two sets (16 letters total) of the **BABY KING LETTERS**. Cut the letters apart and place all of them in one bag. Teams will all pull from the same bag. Convert the above questions to be answered with either a "Yea" or a "Neigh" (yes or no). Make up additional questions if you think you'll need more than ten.

**Directions:** Divide into two teams (girls vs. boys) and give each person a set of **YEA AND NEIGH CARDS**. Ask a question listed in the Option 1 game above. On the count of three, have everyone show their answer. If most get it right on a team (or all if your class is small), choose a representative to pull a **BABY KING LETTER** from the bag. The goal is to see which team spells "BABY KING" first. If they get a letter they don't need, they throw it back in the bag. Continue with other questions. If time runs out before a team has completely spelled out the phrase, whichever team has the most letters wins.



You can play this game any day to review, just change the phrase and the letters that go in the bag (Day 2: Young King; Day 3: Adult King; Day 4: Risen King; Day 5: King of Kings).

★ The front page of each day's student guide is a review of today's lesson. The back page matches this section in the teacher guide.

- ❑ Theme and Day 1 Memory Verse Posters
- ❑ Optional: Student Guides and supplies



## APPLY IT!

In the remaining class time, complete one or more of the following ideas. These are also on the back of the Junior Student Guide and can be done at home with a parent or caretaker if you are out of time. If you send them home, motivate the kids to do them because they are full of good stuff! (The Go and Do sections apply today's lesson to real life. It's important!) Have the group guides check with the kids tomorrow to see how they did on them, and consider giving contest bonus points to the groups for their hard work.

Supplies for this section are not included in the supply list on the back cover since they will vary depending on the activities you choose. So decide what you will do and add any items to your supply list accordingly.

### Part 1: Gold Mine Memory Time

**Today's Verse:** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory . . . full of grace and truth. John 1:14

Practice this verse a couple times using the **DAY 1 MEMORY VERSE POSTER** as a reference, then try the challenge.

**Challenge:** Move like a baby while saying the verse. First, roll over and over and over while saying it, then crawl around while saying it.

**Tomorrow's Verse:** And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52

**Theme Verse:** From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! Psalm 113:3

Say the new verse together several times and try the challenge again. Try the theme verse as well.

### Part 2: Go and Do

1. Take a walk and marvel at what Jesus, the Creator, has made. Check out all parts of his creation you see or hear or smell or touch.
2. Read Psalm 139:7-10. If you believe in Jesus, this is a comfort to know you are never alone. God is with you, as Jesus' title "Immanuel" means. Brainstorm a list of places Jesus is with you.
3. Ask an adult who has taken care of babies (maybe even you!) what they needed to do to care for the babies. Isn't it a wonder to think of the care Jesus would have needed as a baby, yet now he cares for you and the entire universe?
4. Check [AnswersVBS.com/wonderkids](http://AnswersVBS.com/wonderkids) for more fun information!

Ask yourself these questions: What amazes me about Jesus' birth? Why does his birth matter? Why is it important to think about the wonder of Jesus?

### Part 3: Marvel-ous Moment

End each day with this thought. It's an important moment, so be sure to allow time for it daily. Cut something else if need be.

Never stop marveling at the creation Jesus made. Here's an idea to get you started:

- When you're at the beach, think of this: Jesus knows how many grains of sand there are. And he knows where each crab is hiding under that sand. And he knows exactly how many grains of sand and how many crabs will be there in 8 years and 342 days from now.
- Now your turn! What can you think of? Keep marveling!