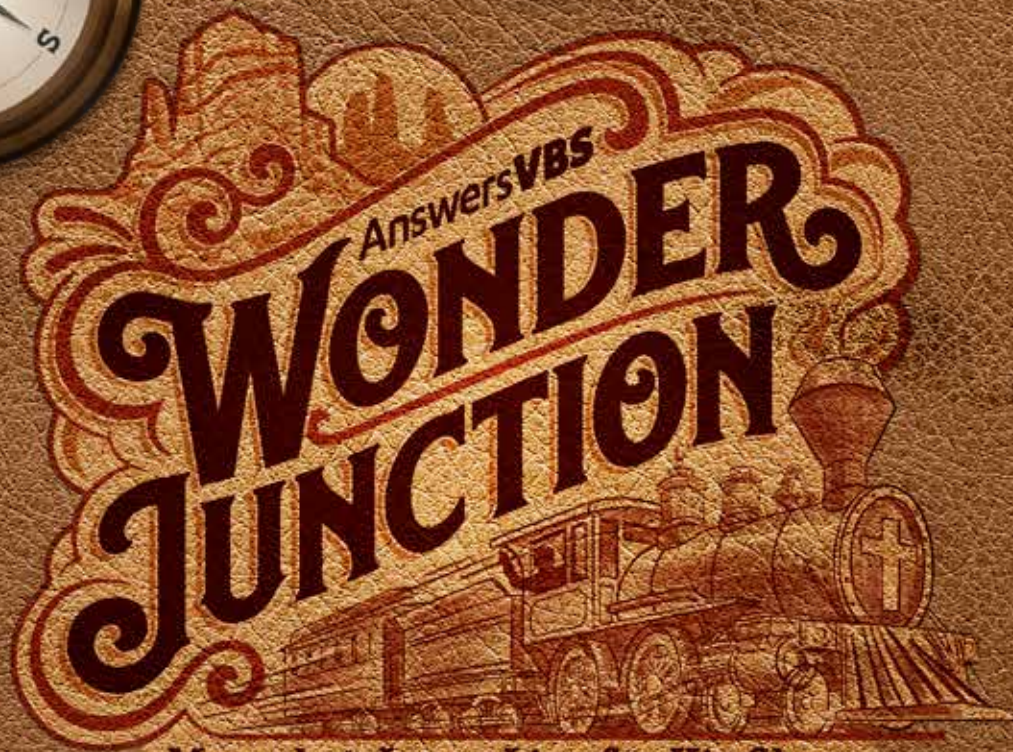


HIGH POINT BIBLE TIME  
**PRIMARY**



*Marvel at Jesus. Live for His Glory*

**TEACHER  
GUIDE**



# COURSE OVERVIEW

**Theme Verse: Psalm 113:3**

	<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Day 5</b>
	The <b>Wonder</b> of His Birth	The <b>Wonder</b> of His Childhood	The <b>Wonder</b> of His Ministry Years	The <b>Wonder</b> of His Death and Resurrection	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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## Primary Teacher Guide

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Printed in China.



# 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 C.
  - » 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. It is helpful to see how God has wired different age groups so we can be more effective in teaching and interacting with them.

First, you'll see characteristics of children in general and then characteristics of Primaries (ages 6–9 years) specifically.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN

Children have some common characteristics.

- They are all sinners (Romans 3:23).
- God has given each a conscience, and they generally want good to win over evil.
- God has shown himself to all children through his creation, making it obvious to all that there is a Creator.
- Children enjoy active learning—moving around; seeing, 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 PRIMARIES

### Physical Characteristics

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

#### Takeaways for Us

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

### Emotional/Social Characteristics

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

#### Takeaways for Us

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

### Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

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

#### Takeaways for Us

- Be concrete in what you say. Don't use abstract or symbolic language. For example, regarding salvation, don't ask if they have Jesus in their hearts. They will take that literally. More concrete ways to express this concept are "becoming a child of God" or "being in God's family." Kids will understand what it means to be part of a family.
- Activities can stretch for a longer time, but it's still good to vary them and involve Primaries actively, moving as much as possible.
- Some children read better than others. Be careful about asking children to read out loud. Try asking for volunteers.
- Small print can be a challenge, so use larger print when possible.
- Encourage memorization.
- Use visuals.
- Show interest in each child, helping them sense your care and interest in them.
- Be careful to speak accurately and truthfully, and explain Bible words and concepts.
- Remember that you are a role model.
- Show care and respect for your Bible, and help them see your love for it and for the Lord.



# 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

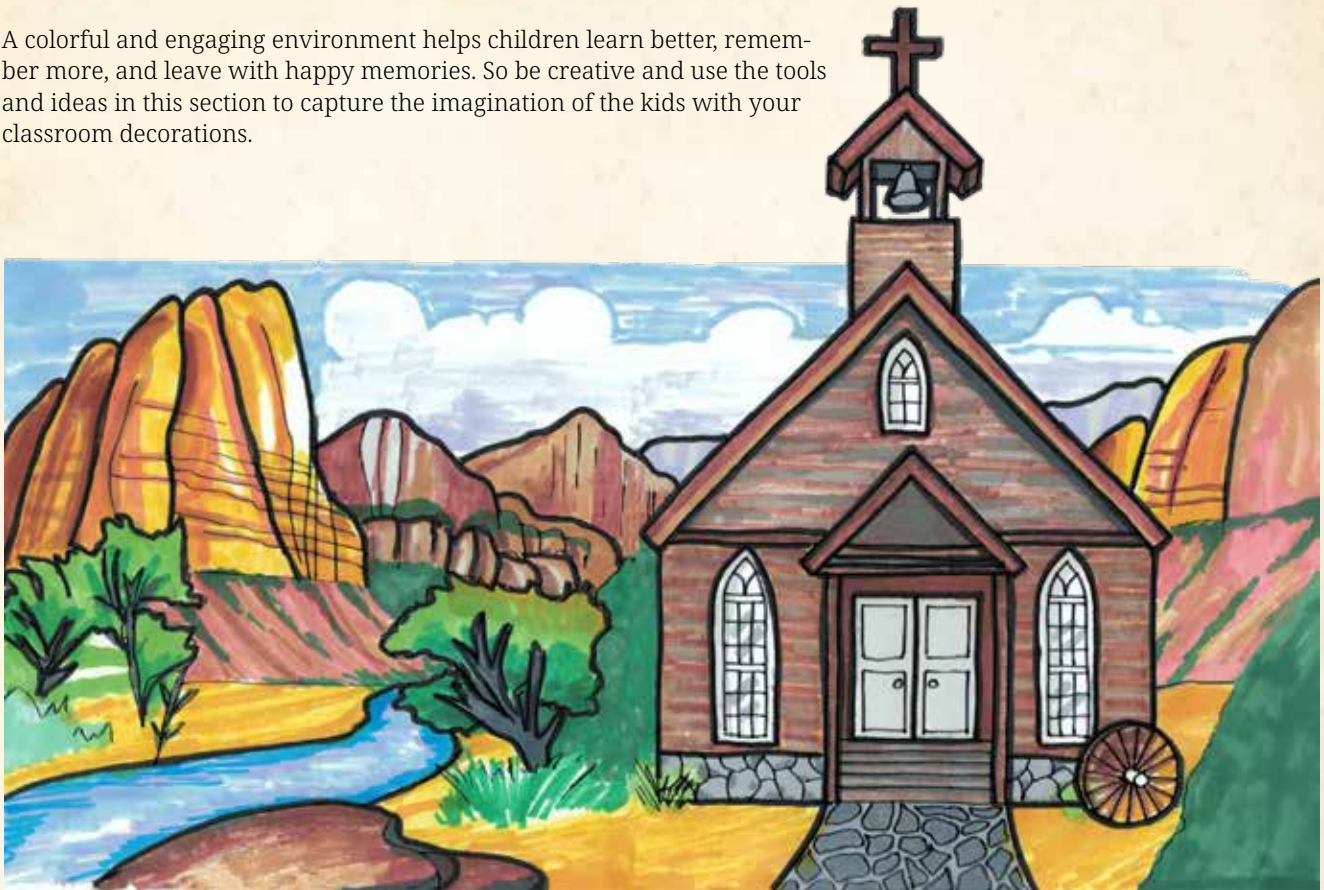
**Exploring God’s Word:** This little booklet encourages your students to continue discovering God’s Word for weeks after VBS has finished. It features a daily question and answer found in the Scripture verse. You or the group guides can pass one of these to each student on the last day of class at dismissal.

- 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 Digital Resources 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.

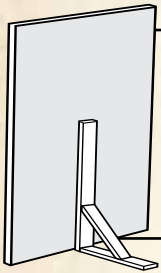
Check out [Pinterest.com/AnswersVBS](https://www.pinterest.com/AnswersVBS) for colorful photos of decorations from our test churches!  
Visit [YouTube.com/AnswersVBS](https://www.youtube.com/AnswersVBS) for how-to decorating videos!





## 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.

### 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.

## 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 Digital Resources for clip art images or use a variety of stuffed animals.
- Add a thin (½-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.

## Puppet Stage

Because puppets are used daily in the Primary classrooms, you will need a puppet stage. Use the chapel backdrop for this purpose by cutting a small opening in one of the windows or doors or have the puppet appear from behind an outcropping of rocks. You can also make a free-standing puppet stage out of a large cardboard box or a trifold display board. Cut out a rectangular hole in the box or display board, cover the hole with fabric, and then paint or decorate the outside. Or just have the puppet come up from behind an old-fashioned looking suitcase with the lid flipped up.

# 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: Wonder of Jesus' Birth  
Part 2: Puppet Pal—Jesus Is a Treasure  
Part 3: Animal Pal Review and Game  
Option 1—Yes or No  
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. Hide the baby doll somewhere so it's just a little visible to everyone while seated.

**Teacher 1:** Well howdy, y'all! It sure is good to meet ya. I'm \_\_\_\_, and this here is \_\_\_\_. This week, we're going to pretend we're living in the Old West where we'll find cowboys, and gold mines, and horses, and old towns like Wonder Junction, where the newfangled train depot and locomotive have just opened. Show the **WONDER JUNCTION POSTER** and point out where the train depot is.

**Teacher 2:** Come on! Let's get on the train and head to Wonder Junction! Have everyone get up and pretend to do so. Grab pretend luggage, get on board as you say, "All aboard!" Chug around the room (blowing the train whistle if you have one), until you come to a screeching halt at Wonder Junction. End in front of the chapel, where they can sit down. 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 1:** Now, I have to admit, that train sure is a wonder to behold! It took about six years and 100 million dollars to build, but it was worth it! Before the train arrived, it could take six months to get here by wagon, but now it takes just a few days.

**Teacher 2:** And the train isn't the only wonder. The West is full of wonders, like gold and gems and land and beauty. But you know what? As amazing as the wonders are out here, they're nothin' compared to what we're gonna be talkin' about this week—the wonder of Jesus!

**Teacher 1:** Have y'all heard of Jesus before—Jesus, who is God *and* God's Son? Pause for responses. Let's first talk about the wonder of Jesus' birth. Being born has to do with babies. Look around the room and see if you can find a baby doll. Have them do so by either pointing to it while staying seated or by looking around and having someone bring it to you.

**Teacher 2:** Hold it up for them to see. Our first wonder-filled thought is this: Jesus, who is God, became a baby! Jesus *creates* babies because he's the Creator of every person! But then Jesus *became* a baby himself, the most special baby ever! There's never been a more important person ever born, and there never will be.

**Teacher 1:** Whoa, wait a minute. You mean Jesus came as 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! Let that sink in—*God became a baby*—as we talk more about the wonder of Jesus' birth.

# TEACH IT!

## Part 1: Wonder of Jesus' Birth (15–20 minutes)

**Prep:** Think through your costumes/props ahead of time and have them ready to have the kids put on or hold at the right time. Cover each section of the **WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER** with a piece of paper.

**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?

**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.

- Wonder Junction Poster
- Bible
- Old West costumes for teachers
- Mounting putty or tape for posters
- Optional: train whistle
- Baby doll



★ 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.

★ Consider bringing in a real baby briefly while talking about this.

- Wonder-Filled Birth Poster
- 4 sheets of copy paper and tape
- Props: white robe (or something white), stuffed toy sheep, shepherd staff, wise man gift, large star

★ Download from [AnswersVBS.com/](http://AnswersVBS.com/).

◆ Find in your teacher kit.

★ Juniors are using chenille stems throughout this section instead of costumes.

**Teacher 1:** I'm gonna read something from the Bible, and every time *I* say "the Word," you jump up and say "Jesus," then sit back down. Here we go. Read [John 1:1-3](#).

**Teacher 2:** Whoa, so are you saying *Jesus* created the sun and stars and plants and animals and people?

**Teacher 1:** Yep! Jesus didn't start out as a baby. He has existed for all of eternity and has always been God. Then when it was time to start creating the universe, Jesus, who is God and God's Son, was right there creating with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

**Teacher 2:** Jesus made the birds (give a squawk), and the fish (make a goofy fish face), and the horses (slap your hands to your legs to make the sound of a horse's gallop). He also made people (say hi to each other). When we read the book of Luke (point to your open Bible at the book of Luke), we find that about 2,000 years ago, Jesus the Creator came down from heaven to *live* in his creation. *That* is a wonder!

### **Wonder 1: Angel**

**Teacher 1:** Let's begin at the place when it's almost time for Jesus to come to earth as a baby. There was an angel involved. Would anyone like to be an angel? Choose someone and have them stand up front until the next direction.

**Teacher 2:** Angels are God's messengers and come from heaven. God sent them to earth to deliver special messages. Jesus' birth account starts with a visit from an angel. That doesn't happen every day, does it? We can see Jesus' birth is going to be different. Let's put a white robe (or something white) on the angel to remind us of that. Do so. You can briefly chat with the angel while doing so.

**Teacher 1:** The Bible tells us right here (show [Luke 1](#)) that the angel's name was Gabriel. Address the angel. Angel, what's your name? Have the angel say "Gabriel." Everyone, wave and say, "Hi, Gabriel!" Do so.

**Teacher 2:** Read [Luke 1:28](#). Angel, can you pretend to greet Mary? Do so.

**Teacher 1:** Well, this made Mary afraid. Can you imagine an angel in a room with you? Make a face to show how you might feel. Do so.

**Teacher 2:** Uncover the **WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER: ANGEL**. The angel told Mary not to be afraid because God had chosen her to give birth to a Son whose name would be Jesus. Now, do angels normally come to our houses and announce that a family will have a baby? Imagine what it would be like if an angel suddenly appeared to your mom before she was pregnant with you. No, this doesn't normally happen. But it did for Jesus' birth, and it was a wonder!

**Teacher 1:** And what the angel said was *going* to happen *did* happen, just as he said. Soon after, Mary was pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Teacher 2:** She married a man named Joseph, and they traveled to a city called Bethlehem because the government wanted to count how many people lived in each area.

**Teacher 1:** While they were there, it was time for Jesus' birth. Because their family's home was filled with people, they were given an area in the lower level of the house that sometimes had animals in it. Let's make an animal sound. Do so.

**Teacher 2:** Mary had the baby and laid him in a manger.

**Teacher 1:** This wasn't the nicest place for the King of the world to be born, was it? He could have been born in a palace, or had fireworks, or a big parade. Where would you like to have been placed after you were born? Take a quick response or two. The *King of the world* was placed in a manger—an animal's feeding stand.

### **Wonder 2: Shepherds with Angels**

**Teacher 2:** Let's have our angel sit down and have a shepherd come up as we listen to the next thing that happened. Choose someone to be a shepherd. Give her the sheep and staff.

**Teacher 1:** Miss/Mr. Shepherd(ess), do you know what a shepherd does? Take her response. Shepherds take care of sheep, which is hard work. The shepherd has to make sure there's plenty of grass and water for the sheep. Can you pretend to feed your sheep,





Miss Shepherdess? Do so. You may want to have all the kids do this as well as the other directions below instead of just the shepherd up front.

**Teacher 2:** And the shepherd has to make sure the sheep don't wander off or get eaten by wild animals. Shepherds can have some pretty exciting times! But I guarantee what I'm about to tell you is the most exciting thing that's ever happened to any shepherd. Everyone, make your best excited face. Do so.

**Teacher 1:** The Bible tells us on the night Jesus was born, the shepherds nearby were watching over their sheep. Can you watch over your sheep, Miss Shepherdess? Do so. Suddenly, they saw something that scared them. Look scared, Miss Shepherdess! Do so.

**Teacher 2:** What do you think it was? Take responses. Yes, it was an angel! The angel said not to be afraid because in the city of David a Savior, Jesus, was born.

**Teacher 1:** The angel told them they would go and find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes (strips of cloth), lying in a manger.

**Teacher 2:** Then guess what happened next? Uncover the **WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER: SHEPHERDS**. A whole bunch of angels filled the sky, celebrating Jesus' birth! What a wonder! Everyone, pretend to look up and ooh and aah at a sky full of angels. Do so.

**Teacher 1:** The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to see the baby. Miss Shepherdess, can you lead the way while we join you in walking around the room as we pretend to hurry to Bethlehem? Do so, then have them all sit back down. When they got there, it was just as the angel said. They found baby Jesus in the manger, and they worshipped him.

**Teacher 2:** Have any of you visited a newborn baby? Was the baby in a hospital? Take responses. I'm sure you didn't see any angels or a baby in a manger. Does this sound like a normal birth? No! Only Jesus' birth! What a wonder!

### **Wonder 3: Wise Men and Special Star**

**Teacher 1:** Now we need a wise man to come up. Choose someone and continue. Hand him a gift.

**Teacher 2:** Jesus continued to have unusual, amazing things happen, like wise men with special gifts coming to visit a while after he was born. Let's say hi to our wise man. Do so.

**Teacher 1:** The wise men came because they had been watching for a special star to appear. When they saw it, they followed it to find Jesus. Can you follow me around, Mr. Wise Man? Hold up the star and walk around the room once, leading the wise man (or everyone). Then have them sit down. Uncover the **WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER: WISE MEN WITH GIFTS/SPECIAL STAR**.

**Teacher 2:** Wow! Jesus even had his own special star in the sky. Do you think there's ever been a special star for anyone else's birth? Pause for responses. No! Only Jesus!

**Teacher 1:** In fact, the star they saw went before them until it stood over the place where Jesus was. So they came into the house and saw Jesus and his mother, Mary. They fell down and worshipped Jesus and gave him expensive treasures—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. It's a wonder that these important men bowed down to a baby!

**Teacher 2:** It is! That would be like rich, important strangers showing up at your house after you were born—out of the blue—and giving you expensive gifts. How would you like that? Pause for responses. Can you imagine having a star show up in the sky just for you? Pause for responses.

**Teacher 1:** It's incredible if you stop and think about it. Jesus' birth was different from the very beginning. It wasn't like any other person's birth—ever. He had angels. He had shepherds. Later, he had wise men bringing gifts. He even had his own special star!

**Teacher 2:** His birth was also special because God himself came to earth and was born. He took on skin! He had elbows! He had toenails!

**Teacher 1:** And his birth is what people all around the world celebrate every Christmas Day. No one else has a day that's celebrated like this. Only Jesus! What a wonder!

**Teacher 2:** Let's sing "Happy Birthday" to him right now, and then we'll talk about one more wonder of Jesus' birth. Do so.

### **Wonder 4: Jesus Came!**

**Teacher 1:** Maybe the most amazing wonder of all is Jesus wanting to come. Remember, he was in heaven in a beautiful, perfect place, and he left that for our world.

**Teacher 2:** Uncover the **WONDER-FILLED BIRTH POSTER: MANSION**. That might be like us leaving a nice home—like a mansion—to go to a dirty, smelly place. Picture that in your mind.

**Teacher 1:** 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 the world, no longer being recognized as the king. Would *you* want to go from a king to a poor man? Pause.

**Teacher 2:** Jesus did that because he loves you and knows you need him. We'll hear more about that this week. Move behind the puppet stage while Teacher 1 finishes this section.

**Teacher 1:** But let's end with this thought before meeting our puppet. Jesus, the most important person to ever be born, 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.
- 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's always with you. So talk to him. He's Immanuel—"God with us!"

### **Part 2: Puppet Pal—Jesus Is a Treasure** (5 minutes or less)

**Prep:** Tape one **SCRIPT** inside the puppet stage and attach the other to a clipboard for reference. Tape the mini shovel to the puppet's hand. Dress the puppet in either a VBS T-shirt (see Teaching Tip in the sidebar) or in an Old West costume such as a mini vest and a little bandana.

Each day, the puppet pal will teach part of the lesson or reinforce what the kids just heard. It's always a favorite, so try to include it even if you have to cut something else.

Decide which of you will be the puppet and figure out when you need to leave the previous teaching so you will be positioned in time for the start of the puppet pal time.

If you don't have a teaching assistant or co-teacher, enlist someone (a group guide or other volunteer) ahead of time to work the puppet each day. If you're alone, have the puppet come up from behind a suitcase with the lid flipped up or just stand and work the puppet. (It's fine if your lips move. No need to be a ventriloquist.)

You can either use a boy or a girl puppet named Sam (short for Samuel or Samantha). Use a consistent voice for the puppet all week. Speak clearly and exaggerate words and expressions. For instance, draw out certain words for emphasis or make an exaggerated action for things like groaning, turning its head, or sneezing. Use your free hand to do things with the puppet's hands or arms. For example, if the puppet is "thinking," put the puppet's hand on its chin. When the puppet is talking, make sure the mouth is open. (This is the opposite of what people often do!) In other words, the mouth should be open on most syllables. You don't have to open very wide, which will help you move the mouth faster and more naturally.

Your puppet should come up in the chapel window or from behind a big rock. (See Decorating Decisions.) When the puppet is entering, hold your arm back and down and have the puppet take three steps up, getting higher each time, until the puppet is out and visible. When exiting, turn the puppet toward you and take three steps down until out of sight.

**Teacher:** Okay, now it's time to meet our puppet, Samuel (Samantha). He (she) likes to be called Sam for short. Let's all call for him (her) now. Do so.

**Puppet:** Come up with a mini shovel taped to your hand, acting dejected.

#### ★ Gospel Opportunity

- Prophecy Poster
- 2 copies of Day 1 Puppet Script
- Boy or girl puppet and puppet stage
- Clipboard
- Mini shovel and tape
- Optional: Old West costume for the puppet

★ The puppet can be dressed in a small VBS T-shirt or a mini cowboy hat and little bandana. To make a small T-shirt, print, cut out, and laminate a color copy of the VBS logo and tape it to a baby-sized T-shirt.

★ If you want to get snazzy, use a quick musical introduction and exit when it's time for the puppet to come and go.



**Teacher:** Hi there, Sam. Is something wrong? You seem a bit upset.

**Puppet:** Well, my friend was supposed to go digging for gold treasure with me today at the Wonder Junction Gold Mine, but now he's too busy.

**Teacher:** Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.

**Puppet:** Yeah. He promised he'd come.

**Teacher:** Well, when people make promises, hopefully they keep them. But once in a while, they don't.

**Puppet:** That's terrible!

**Teacher:** In a perfect world, every person would always keep every promise. But people sometimes make mistakes. It doesn't mean they don't care about you.

**Puppet:** Still, it's a bummer.

**Teacher:** It is. But there's some good news.

**Puppet:** What? Did you find some gold treasure?

**Teacher:** No, but in a way, I found a treasure much better than gold. I found the one person who always, always, always, always, always keeps his promises. He's a treasure.

**Puppet:** Great! Who is he?

**Teacher:** Jesus. Jesus never fails. People in this world may let you down, but Jesus never fails. He always keeps his promises.

**Puppet:** How do you know that?

**Teacher:** Well, we talked about his birth. All those things that happened had been promised in the Bible long, long before they happened, and they came true *as promised*. In fact, they were promised hundreds of years earlier, and then they *did* happen, just as promised! Show each section of the [PROPHECY POSTER](#) as you say the following. For instance, the Bible promised Jesus would be born in a town called Bethlehem, and . . . he was! God promised that Jesus would be born as a baby, and . . . he was! God promised wise men would bring gifts, and . . . they did! God even promised Jesus would have his own special star, and . . . he did! It's a wonder that all these things actually happened, but they did!

**Puppet:** Jesus and his Word, the Bible, are promise keepers. And that's a much better treasure than finding gold.

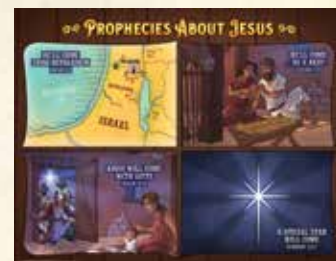
**Teacher:** Yes! And Jesus even left the beauty of heaven to come to earth, because he loves me. Now he's with me—Immanuel, God with us.

**Puppet:** Jesus really is a wonder, isn't he?

**Teacher:** He really is. He's the treasure of all treasures—better than \_\_\_ mention some things and have them come up with several like: Jesus is a better treasure than living in a castle, having all the toys in the world, etc. Always treasure Jesus, Sam.

**Puppet:** I will! Well, I think I'm going to try to dig up some gold treasure on my own now, but I'll remember—Jesus is our true treasure!

**Teacher:** Okay! Bye for now, Sam! See you tomorrow.



### 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 Wonder Junction Maps and Tiny stickers (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—passing them out goes faster without names. Or, another option is to review daily but to wait until the last day to pass out the 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

- Day 1 Animal Pal Poster
- Wonder Junction Maps and Tiny stickers, 1 per person (1220780)
- Option 1: no supplies
- Option 2: Yea and Neigh Cards (1 paper-clipped set on card stock per person), Baby King Letters (2 sets), and a small nontransparent bag



★ Gospel Opportunity

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. Mention the following if they don't.

- It matters because thinking on 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 anxious, Jesus is with you. If you're having a bad day, Jesus is with you. Jesus is right there, 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 those wonderful good things and people to enjoy, the best thing by far is Jesus. He's the greatest treasure and the one we should live for.

Collect the maps and stickers. If time allows, play a review game. Two options are given below—one that takes just a minute, and one that takes a little longer. If playing Option 1, use the questions below. If playing Option 2, add additional yes (yea) or no (neigh) questions if needed.

### Option 1: Yes or No

Continue reviewing with the following questions, and have the kids meow like a cougar kitten if the answer is yes and pretend to sleep if the answer is no.

1. **Yes or no: Our animal pal is named Teeny.** No—pretend to sleep like a cougar kitten. It's Tiny. Tiny reminds us of Jesus coming as a tiny baby.
2. **Yes or no: Jesus' life started when he was born.** No—pretend to sleep like a cougar kitten. Jesus has existed forever—even before he came to earth as a baby.
3. **Yes or no: Jesus is the Creator of the world.** Yes—meow.
4. **Yes or no: It's a wonder that Jesus the Creator became part of his creation.** Yes—meow.
5. **Yes or no: Jesus is not God.** No—sleep. Jesus IS God. He is both God and God's Son.
6. **Yes or no: Jesus' birth was just like everyone else's birth.** No—sleep. He's the most important person to ever be born, and his birth was the most special birth ever. He even had wise men bow down to him!
7. **Yes or no: Jesus had angels, shepherds, and an earthquake at the time of his birth.** No—sleep. There was no earthquake, but there were angels and shepherds.
8. **Yes or no: Over 2,000 years later, we still celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas.** Yes—meow.
9. **Yes or no: We should be in wonder when we think of Jesus and remember he is the greatest treasure of all.** Yes—meow.
10. **Yes or no: It matters that Jesus came to earth.** Yes—meow.

### 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 3, 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 changing 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).

★ Download from AnswersVBS.

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◆ Find in your teacher kit.



# APPLY IT!

In the remaining class time, complete one or more of the following ideas. These are also on the back of the Primary 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 section applies 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.

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

★ 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.

## 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?

## 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 every crab is hiding under that sand. *And* he knows exactly how many grains of sand and crabs will be there in 8 years and 342 days from now.
- Now your turn! What can you think of? Keep marveling!

- ★ Download from [AnswersVBS.com/](http://AnswersVBS.com/).
- ◆ Find in your teacher kit.