

# DAILY ASSEMBLIES

One of the most exciting parts of *Camp Kilimanjaro* is the opening and closing assembly time. Each day begins and ends with an assembly of all classes and includes an array of activities. (See below.) The assemblies can be led by the VBS director, children's pastor, music coordinator, drama director, or a volunteer.

## ASSEMBLY ACTIVITIES

### Welcome

Welcoming everyone to VBS is the first thing we do at *Camp Kilimanjaro*. And since first impressions are so important, our "welcome" includes some humor and a quick introduction to the day's theme.

### Jambo Jive Music

Kids love to sing, and kids love song motions. That's why we do both at *Camp Kilimanjaro*. The *Jambo Jive* CD features fun songs that reinforce the spiritual theme. See the Music Leader Set (either contemporary or traditional) that is included with a Super Starter Kit for a Music CD (stereo, split-track, instrumental only versions of each song), Song Motions DVD (videos of children performing the motions for each song), and Resource DVD-ROM (featuring lyric-only videos, HD versions of the song motions videos, presentation images, and PDFs of the song lyrics). Sheet music, student CDs, and songbooks are also available.

Additionally, included in the contemporary Super Starter Kit is a Memory Verse Songs Leader Set. This features each of the main memory verses set to fun, upbeat music by JumpStart3. Singing Scripture is an easy and exciting way to encourage your kids to memorize their Bible verses!

### Mission Moment

During the opening assembly, the VBS mission project is highlighted. Collecting money for Mission Trek: Africa in partnership with Children's Hunger Fund allows the children to contribute to the physical needs of children in Africa, giving them an opportunity to hear the gospel. See Mission Moment on page 15 for more information.

### The Big Five Time

During the closing assembly, kids hear answers to five big apologetics questions. See The Big Five Time on page 13 for more information.

### Drama

Because each day's drama segment is part of a continuing week-long story, it is one of the most anticipated events of VBS. The dramas are presented in the closing assembly each day. For more information about the dramas, including set design and construction, and each day's script, see the Drama section, beginning on page 37.

### Transition Point

Immediately following each day's drama segment, the assembly leader reinforces a particular teaching point presented in the drama. See the daily Assembly Scripts, beginning on page 19, for each day's installment.

### Cool Contests

Not only do kids love to sing, but they also love a challenge. That's why *Camp Kilimanjaro* has contests each day to keep excitement running high. Contest results are presented daily during the closing assembly. See Cool Contests on page 9 for more information.

### Announcements

Announcements can be made toward the end of each opening and closing assembly and should include information about the next day's contest and a reminder to bring mission money.

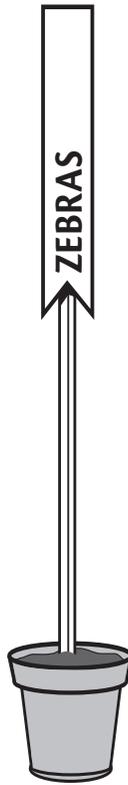
# Daily Assemblies

## Prayer

At the end of the opening assembly, just before everyone is dismissed, we ask for God's protection and blessing on our day. At the end of the closing assembly we thank God for a good day at VBS.

## Tip Corner

- Play VBS music before and after each assembly to enhance the atmosphere.
- In preparation for VBS, have some (or all) of your leaders learn the song motions.
- To add variety, don a funny hat or bring out an interesting prop as you lead a song.
- Use class signs to identify where each class should sit. Sign posts can be made and re-used each year.



## Daily Assembly Scripts

For your assembly leader, a detailed program for each assembly, including all scripted segments, is provided beginning on page 15. These include the welcomes, Mission Moments, songs, and The Big Five Times. These scripts are also available on the Resource DVD-ROM.

## Order of Program Forms

So that your assembly leader and production crew are "on the same page," blank, reproducible "order of program" forms are provided for the opening and closing assemblies on the Resource DVD-ROM. Before each assembly, insert the songs of your choice and your notes. Then photocopy the completed form and distribute to your production crew.

# JAMBO JIVE MUSIC

Kids love to sing, and kids love song motions. That's why we do both at *Camp Kilimanjaro*. *Jambo Jive Music* features fun songs that reinforce the spiritual theme. We have provided a variety of songs to go along with each day's teaching; however, feel free to choose the songs that work best for your children. You can use all of the songs throughout the week or just choose a few to repeat every day so the kids can learn them. You may also want to begin teaching the songs to your children a few weeks before VBS begins. Use your Sunday school, children's church, or Wednesday

evening programs to familiarize them with the VBS music. Hand out CDs of the music or encourage parents to download the audio files from [answersbookstore.com](http://answersbookstore.com) and play them for the children in the car and at home.

Note: Original purchasers of these music products (CDs, DVDs, and songbooks) are given limited permission to copy up to 25% of the total number of copies needed of the *Jambo Jive* Leader Music CD and student CD and *Jambo Jive* Song Motions DVD.

## MUSIC LEADER SET

Included in each Super Starter Kit is a Music Leader Set, either contemporary (11-3-059) or traditional (11-3-060; music produced by Majesty Music). These sets are also available for purchase separately. The Music Leader Set features a Leader Music CD, Resource DVD-ROM, and Song Motions DVD.

### Music CD

This music CD features stereo, split-track, and instrumental-only versions of the *Jambo Jive Music*.



### Contemporary Songs

- Theme Song: "Camp Kilimanjaro" (2:51)
- Day 1 Song: "The Words of Wisdom" (2:40)
- Day 2 Song: "What Does Your Heart Do?" (2:44)
- Day 3 Song: "The Power of the Tongue" (2:40)
- Day 3 Song: "In the Image of God" (2:56)
- Day 3 Song: "God's in Control" (2:15)
- Day 4 Song: "Lend Me a Hand" (2:21)
- Day 5 Song: "Wise Up!" (2:56)

### Traditional Songs

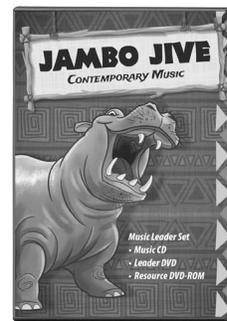
- Theme Song: "Camp Kilimanjaro"
- Day 1 Song: "The Words of Wisdom"
- Day 2 Song: "Wisdom Begins"
- Day 3 Song: "The Power of the Tongue"

Day 4 Song: "There's a Lion in the Street"

Day 4 Song: "Lend a Hand"

Day 5 Song: "Walk with the Wise"

Any Day Song: "Treasure Seekers"



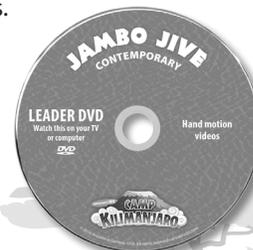
### Resource DVD-ROM

The Resource DVD-ROM features lyric-only song videos, HD versions of the song motions videos, presentation images of the songs, and a document of the lyrics. In addition, presentation images of the Bible verses, blank backgrounds, daily phrases, and trivia are included. There are also folders full of clip art images and logos.

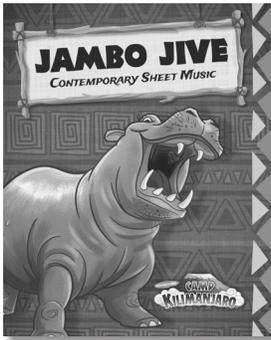


### Song Motions DVD

This DVD features children performing suggested motions for each song. Tracks are available with and without lyrics on the screen.



## ADDITIONAL JAMBO JIVE MUSIC AIDS



### Sheet Music

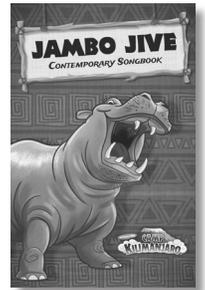
The Super Starter Kit includes a sheet music book for your chosen music track. This book includes the lyrics for each song and the accompaniment. This book can also be purchased separately. (Contemporary—11-3-065; Traditional—11-3-066)

### Student CDs

Audio CDs of the full-track songs are sold in packs of ten. These can be distributed with the songbooks to the children and parents before or during VBS to help with learning the songs. They make great rewards and souvenirs of VBS, as well. (Contemporary—11-3-061; Traditional—11-3-062)

### Songbook

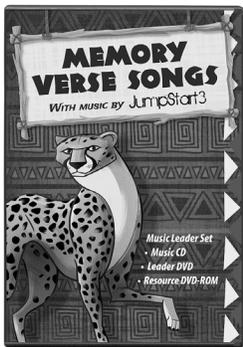
A sample songbook is also included in the Super Starter Kit. These are for sale in packs of ten and can be distributed to the children or parents before or during VBS to help with learning the lyrics to the songs. (Contemporary—11-3-067; Traditional—11-3-068)



### Digital Downloads

Lead sheets, chord charts, and audio files of each contemporary music song are available to purchase and download from [answersbookstore.com](http://answersbookstore.com). Contemporary song motions videos and song lyric videos are also available to purchase and download.

## MEMORY VERSE SONGS



Encourage your kids to learn their memory verses the easy way—by singing them! We've partnered with JumpStart3 to offer fun songs for each of the main memory verses from *Camp Kilimanjaro*. The Music Leader Set (Music CD, Song Motions DVD, Resource DVD-ROM) featuring these songs is available in the contemporary Super Starter Kit and

is also available for purchase separately (11-3-069). You can purchase student CDs (11-3-070) in packs of 10, as well.

Day 1 Song: "Proverbs 19:20 Listen to Counsel"

Day 2 Song: "Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the Lord"

Day 3 Song: "Proverbs 18:21 The Power of the Tongue"

Day 4 Song: "Proverbs 16:3 Commit Your Works to the Lord"

Day 5 Song: "Proverbs 13:20 He Who Walks"

Theme Verse Song: "Proverbs 9:10 The Fear of the Lord"

Bonus Song: "Proverbs 6:16–19 These Six Things"

# COOL CONTESTS

It never fails—announce a contest, and watch kids light up! At *Camp Kilimanjaro* there will be daily contests running in one of three ways. Decide which option best suits your situation and plan accordingly.

## Individual Effort

Each child earns points daily for the following:

- Attendance
- Learning the daily memory verse
- Learning the daily bonus memory verse (your choice)
- Bringing a visitor
- Participating in the daily special contest (see specifics below)

These points are tallied, and the child receives a prize if he or she reaches a certain point total. The Resource DVD-ROM contains a roster on which to tally the points.

## Team Effort

Teams earn points as above, but all the points are tallied and scored for the whole team instead of the individual. If the team reaches a certain point total, they will receive a special prize.

Another option for team effort is to tally the team points and award prizes to the top one or two teams daily.

## Whole Group Effort

All the children in VBS work together to reach a certain number of points. If they reach the goal, they receive a prize.

## DAILY SPECIAL CONTESTS

The suggested daily special contests are outlined below. Communicate these clearly the day before each occurs so the children know what they are to do to earn points. (The exception to announcing the contests the day before is the first one, which you'll announce in the Day 1 opening assembly.)

### Day 1: Guess the Zebra Stripes

Find a plastic, see-through container and fill it with Hershey Hugs (which are striped, like zebras). Count how many are in the container, and write the total on a piece of masking tape. Put the tape on the inside of the lid for safe keeping. The first day of VBS, place the jar in a high traffic spot, along with markers, slips of paper to write guesses on, and a basket to put the papers in. (Make sure names are on the papers!) Announce in the opening that the contest will be going on throughout the VBS day and that the winner will be announced in the closing assembly. Allow kids to enter their guesses throughout the VBS day—one per person. Before the closing assembly, figure out who came

closest to the actual number. Announce the winner in the closing assembly and have the winner take the jar! Anyone participating in this contest by putting in a guess gets credit on the team roster.

Reminder: Make sure to announce Day 2's contest during the Day 1 closing assembly so they can work on it at home before the start of Day 2!

### Day 2: Safari Signals

Have the kids make up songs, posters, cheers, or chants to show their team spirit. They can share these during the opening or closing assembly. Anyone participating in this contest should get credit on the team roster.

Reminder: Announce Day 3's contest during the Day 2 closing assembly.

### Day 3: Destination: Dress Up

Dress up day is always a favorite! Trekkers can dress up in animal gear (animal headband or hat, cheetah print shirt, animal print bandana, etc.), mountain climbing/hiking gear,

# Cool Contests

or African-inspired clothing. Anyone who wears anything thematic (even if it's just a headband or something small) gets credit on the team roster for participating in today's contest.

Reminder: Announce Day 4's contest during the Day 3 closing assembly. Pass out the Proverbs Challenge sheet (see Resource DVD-ROM) and remind them to bring it back completed tomorrow.

## Day 4: Proverbs Challenge and Hands that Serve

There are two contests today! For the Proverbs Challenge, challenge the kids to see if they can find verses in Proverbs that have to do with things we've talked about this week—our ears (listening), our hearts (trusting in the Lord), our

tongues/mouths (God-honoring speech), our hands (work), and our feet (having wise friendships). They can use the Proverbs Challenge sheet (see Resource DVD-ROM) and see how many they can come up with!

Also, challenge them to have hands that serve. Choose something they can do or someone they can serve today in some way!

Anyone participating in either challenge gets credit on the team roster. If they do both, they should get double credit.

Reminder: Announce Day 5's contest during the Day 4 closing assembly.

## Day 5: Mountaintop Missions

Bring in your final mission offering today. No amount is too big or too small! Anyone participating in this contest should get credit on the team roster.

## SUGGESTED PRIZES

A small sampling of available prizes includes the following (available from [answersbookstore.com](http://answersbookstore.com)):

- Tubular bandanas (11-3-151; 11-3-152; 11-3-153; 11-3-154; 11-3-155)
- Silicone bracelets (11-3-083)
- Stickers (11-3-088)
- Puzzles (11-3-094)
- Water bottle holder (11-3-081)
- Pencils (11-3-085)
- Carabiner (11-3-082)
- Pen (11-3-086)

Check online with retailers such as Oriental Trading Company ([www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com)) and Rhode Island Novelty ([www.rinovelty.com](http://www.rinovelty.com)) for inexpensive, bulk prizes such as

the following. Also check with local discount retailers that sell bulk, individually wrapped candy or other edible prizes.

- Small safari animals
- Safari visors
- Animal print slap bracelets
- Mini flashlights
- Safari pens on a rope
- Plush animal print notepads
- Plush safari animals
- Sunglasses
- Pith helmets
- Animal masks
- Animal puppets
- Christian stickers

# THE BIG FIVE TIME

During the closing assembly each day, we'll have The Big Five Time when we'll tackle an interesting apologetics question in a fun way. Get ready to learn Who, What, Where, Why, and How!

## Day 1: The Animals—Who made them so cool?

The Mount Kilimanjaro region of the world is full of amazing animals! We'll meet a few of them—the blue monkey, the tree hyrax, and the bush baby—and we'll talk about who their Creator is!

## Day 2: The Terrain—What environments are there on this mountain?

Mount Kilimanjaro has got to be one of the coolest places on the planet! From the base where it's 100 degrees or more to the top where it can be below 0, we travel through several different and amazing climate zones. We'll talk about the zones and be reminded that originally, when God first created the earth, there wouldn't have been climate zones with extreme temperatures (Genesis 1–2).

## Day 3: The Languages—Where did different languages come from?

This week, and today in The Big Five Time in particular, we'll have fun learning some Swahili words and phrases. But where did different languages come from in the first place? To find the answer, we'll have to look back to a time in history about 4,200 years ago in a place where a tower—the Tower of Babel—was being built. At that time, we learn from Genesis 11:1 that everyone had one language. But then, because the people had disobeyed His command to fill the earth, God confused their language and scattered the people over the face of the earth. From those original language families, more and more languages have developed until we now have the almost 7,000 different languages that are spoken today!

## Day 4: The People—Why do they say the first people came from here?

This area of the world is a prime spot for fossil finds that evolutionists use to point back to “early” man who is supposedly millions of years old. They search here to find out more about the first humans. But there's a way to know who the first people were—just look in God's perfect Word (Genesis 1–2)! It gives us answers to big questions like that as we see God created the first people (Adam and Eve) and they were fully human from the start.

## Day 5: The Volcanoes—How did Mount K get here, anyway?

Did you know Mount Kilimanjaro is actually the largest free-standing mountain in the world? Yep, it is, but how did it get here (or any volcano, for that matter)? Once again, the Bible gives us clues to what happened in the earth's past. Many volcanoes were a result of the great Flood of Noah's day. Take a look at Genesis 7 and see just how catastrophic that time was! We're still seeing and feeling the effects to this day!



# MISSION MOMENT

The missions emphasis to your VBS program provides an amazing opportunity for children to participate in giving to ministries that share the gospel.

This year, we have partnered with Children's Hunger Fund for Mission Trek: Africa to provide food and the hope of the gospel to hungry children around the world.

## MISSION TREK: AFRICA

Jambo! Let's go! Jesus told us to go to the ends of the earth to preach the gospel (Matthew 28:18–20) and to care for the hungry and thirsty (Matthew 25:34–40). And in the book of Proverbs, we read that those who are righteous notice and help those who are poor (Proverbs 29:7). So while we're here in Africa, that's just what we're gonna do.

Africa is a beautiful place, which declares God's glory with its breathtaking savannas, its dense jungles, its amazing animals, and, of course, the majestic Mount Kilimanjaro! Sadly, because we live in a fallen world, the children here suffer from hunger, malnutrition, and many other life-threatening problems. Worse than the pain of hunger is that many kids don't know the all-wise God who gives life and hope through His Son, Jesus Christ.

This year, Answers VBS is partnering with Children's Hunger Fund to provide meals for "Food Paks." Local churches in a variety of African countries use these parcels of food to deliver the hope of the gospel to the homes of suffering children.

Your kids can work together to raise funds for the meals that go in every Food Pak. And here's the best part. Each meal costs only 25 cents! So for every dollar you raise, you provide four meals for hungry kids—and each meal represents an opportunity to proclaim the gospel message!

[EVANGELISM OPPORTUNITY: Answers in Genesis, Slavic Gospel Association, and Children's Hunger Fund have joined forces to create gospel tracts—available in English, Thai, Russian, Spanish, and French—which are included with each Food Pak! Samples of these colorful, kid-friendly tracts are in your Starter Kit. Purchasing the English versions of these tracts in bulk helps to fund their distribution. See the *VBS Resource Catalog* for ordering information.]

Every day, your kids will hop aboard a boda-boda (motorcycle) for a brief Mission Trek to another African country



where they'll meet kids in need of food and the gospel. The daily Mission Trek videos feature stories of boys and girls from Ghana, Uganda, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Rwanda where each one faces unique struggles and challenges like malnutrition, disease, and war. These videos are included on a special Mission Trek: Africa DVD-ROM in your Starter Kit.

The following free items are available on the Resource DVD-ROM or for download from [www.AnswersVBS.com/ck-chf](http://www.AnswersVBS.com/ck-chf).

- Printable "Mission Trek Pal" Profiles—five days of true stories about African kids living in poverty. These exciting and educational prayer briefings will help your kids connect with the real needs of African children and understand the depth of poverty they experience every day. Available in full color.
- Printable map of Africa activity sheet featuring the locations of our Mission Trek Pals.
- Printable Mission Trek: Africa banner artwork.

## Mission Moment

- Printable Mission Trek Tracker artwork to help your kids track their fundraising progress.
- Printable Mission Trek: Africa fold-up coin bank for collecting coins.

### Items for Purchase

Included in your starter kit is a sturdy, pop-up coin bank made for your kids to use as they collect quarters for meals. After VBS, these will be fun souvenirs that can be kept as reminders to always care for the needs of others. Coin banks are available for purchase from Children's Hunger Fund (order info below).

Also included in your starter kit is a beautiful, handmade bracelet from Uganda. This is Children's Hunger Fund's gift to you in thanks for your participation in Mission Trek: Africa. A limited number of these bracelets and individual beads are available for purchase to give as prizes, souvenirs, or thank-you gifts for your workers. (Purchasing these fair-trade bracelets and beads provides men and women in Uganda with a safe way to make a living and support their families.)

To order coin banks, bracelets, or beads, please contact Children's Hunger Fund directly at 800.708.7589 or by email: [info@ChildrensHungerFund.org](mailto:info@ChildrensHungerFund.org).

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

Learn more about the gospel-centered mercy ministry of Children's Hunger Fund at [ChildrensHungerFund.org](http://ChildrensHungerFund.org).

### Collecting Gifts

Give every child their own Mission Trek: Africa pop-up coin bank for collecting donations. After VBS, these fun souvenirs can be kept as reminders to always care for the needs of others. Coin banks are available for just 10¢ each from Children's



Hunger Fund (order info below). Once you have totaled your donations, please make out a check to Children's Hunger Fund and indicate "Mission Trek: Africa" in the memo area to ensure proper recognition. Return your check with the Return Form (on the Resource DVD-ROM) to:

Children's Hunger Fund  
Attn: Mission Trek: Africa  
P.O. Box 7085  
Mission Hills, CA 91346-7085

### Tracking Your Progress

To help your kids maintain their excitement for Mission Trek: Africa, make sure to announce how many meals they provided each day.

Here's two fun ways to help your kids see their progress as they fundraise.

1. Make your own Mission Trek Tracker giving thermometer out of your Mount Kilimanjaro set piece. Print out boda-boda symbols and goal flags. Each day, move your boda-bodas  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way up the mountain and write the total number of meals raised so far on the goal flags.
2. Show progress with the Mission Trek Tracker presentation images. Each day, show a new slide showing the boda-boda's progress up the mountain. Update the goal flags with the total number of meals raised so far.

Consider having a contest between boys and girls, or between teams, to see which group can bring in the most money. (Printable artwork and presentation images for your own Mission Trek Mountain are on the Resource DVD-ROM.)

### Daily Scripts

Scripts and handouts for each day and the closing assembly are available on the Resource DVD-ROM. Special videos highlighting an African child in need are included on a special Mission Trek: Africa DVD-ROM included in your Starter Kit.

# DRAMA OVERVIEW

The *Camp Kilimanjaro* drama is a major part of the VBS program and is presented during the closing assembly each day. It is a continuing story with each day's installment designed to entertain and touch upon the theme of the day.

## Why Live Drama?

At a time when kids are so accustomed to watching videos, live drama can be a treat. Not only do kids love to watch it, but chances are there are teens and adults in your church who love to act and are looking for opportunities to use their gifts. Just try it and see if it isn't one of the best things about your VBS program and one of the main reasons why kids want to come back the next day—and bring their friends!

For those who are unable to pull off a live drama, *To the Roof of Africa* (available on DVD 11-3-058 and as an HD download 11-3-292) features the experienced drama team of a VBS test church performing the daily dramas (extended script version) before a live audience.

## Spiritual Theme Tie-In

The spiritual theme of *Camp Kilimanjaro* revolves around lessons from the book of Proverbs. On Day 1, we'll learn to LISTEN UP as we talk about proverbs that deal with our ears and listening to God. To grow in wisdom, we need to hear and do what God says. On Day 2, we'll have a heart CHECK UP. We'll learn that the first step in becoming wise involves trusting in the Lord with all your heart and becoming a child of God. On Day 3, we'll be introduced to proverbs about our mouths and discuss ways to have God-honoring speech, using our mouths to BUILD UP others. On Day 4, we'll WAKE UP and talk about using our hands to serve the Lord. And finally, on Day 5 we'll be challenged to WISE UP as we walk wisely in the choices we make and the friends we hang out with. To help reinforce some of what has been taught each day, the dramas will briefly touch upon these things.

## Drama Premise

A TV station (Channel 9) from Ohio, sends its news team to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise money for their local children's hospital. While in Tanzania, they stay at a luxury safari camp, named Camp Kilimanjaro.

## Cast of Characters

### MR. HARPER—DIRECTOR OF CAMP KILIMANJARO

- A mature follower of Christ
- Experienced and competent

### TERRIE UNDERWOOD—ASSISTANT TO THE CAMP DIRECTOR

- A mature follower of Christ
- Pleasant and hard working

### ROB HENSHAW—CHANNEL 9 SPORTSCASTER / TEAM LEADER

- A sports fanatic
- Has a small football with him most of the time

### STORM WEATHERS—CHANNEL 9 WEATHER MAN

- More goofball than meteorologist
- Wears "loud" mismatched clothing every day (his trademark)

### KATHERINE KENT—CHANNEL 9 ANCHOR WOMAN

- A drama queen
- Vain, proud, and temperamental (it's ALL about her!)

### MR. KENDALL—PARK RANGER

- Certainly not the "brightest bulb in the chandelier!"
- Forgets things and changes his mind a lot

### JIMMY (DAY 5 ONLY)

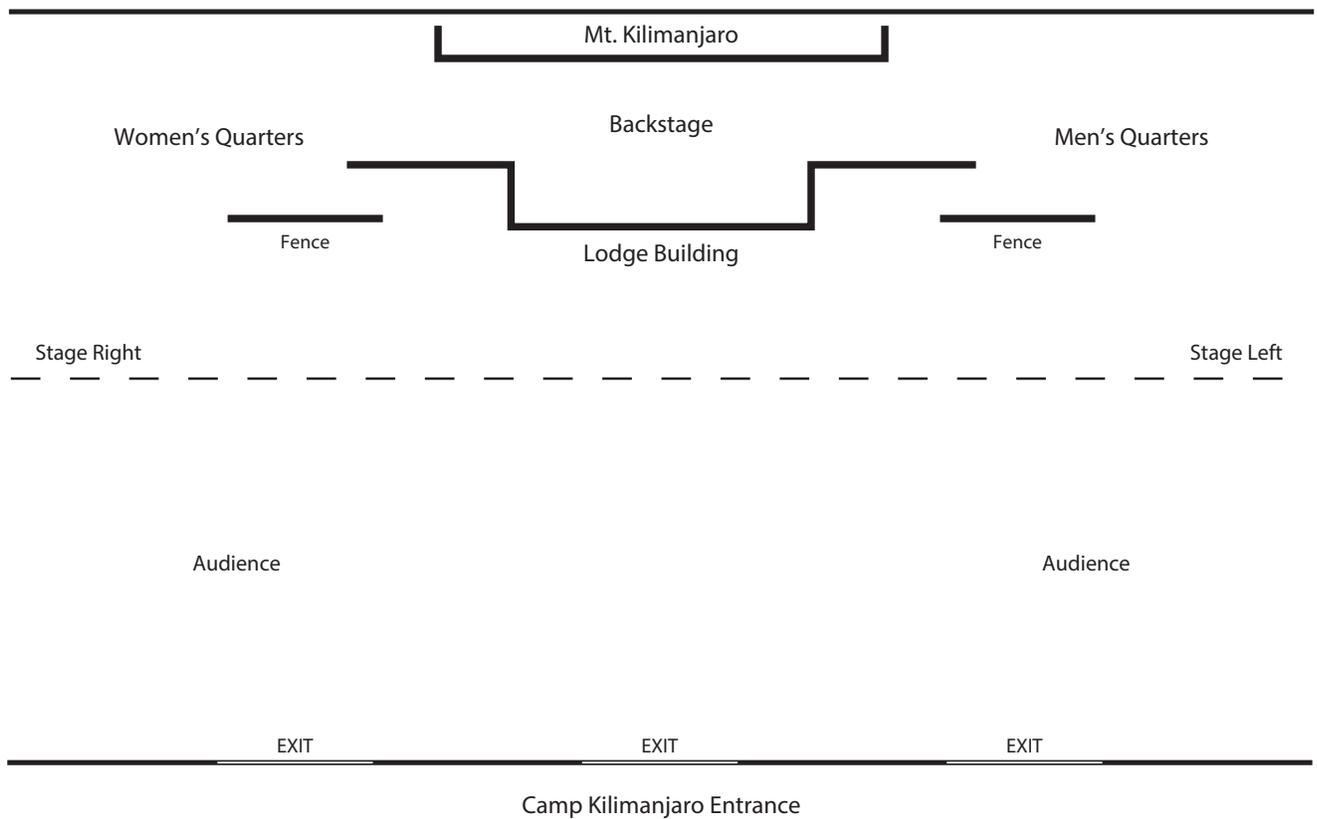
- Former employee of Camp Kilimanjaro
- Was "let go" because of character issues

# Drama Overview

## Venue Diagram

The following diagram gives an aerial view of a typical

venue (church sanctuary or auditorium) with the location of the set and certain aspects of the story in relation to the stage, the audience, and the exits. You may need to adapt the stage directions to your particular setting.



### CAMP KILIMANJARO PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Be sure to visit [Pinterest.com/AnswersVBS](https://www.pinterest.com/AnswersVBS) for photos of decorations from the churches that piloted *Camp Kilimanjaro*. Also, check [YouTube.com/AnswersVBS](https://www.youtube.com/AnswersVBS) for video tips on decorating your *Camp Kilimanjaro* VBS!

## PRODUCTION NOTES

As the drama director, you will be producing and directing the drama. A well-performed production is very rewarding and will bring energy and excitement to your VBS program.

### The Role of Prayer

“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain” (Psalm 127:1).

The importance of prayer in relation to every aspect of your VBS program cannot be over emphasized. Even if you, your cast, and crew are exceptionally talented or experienced, your dramas will have little eternal impact upon those in the audience unless God blesses it. Pray for yourself, your actors, and your crew regularly. Pray for each meeting and rehearsal. Pray for the effectiveness of your dramas and for the children and adults who will watch them. When you encounter problems or challenges of any kind, pray and watch God do amazing things as you trust Him. Finally, and most importantly, pray that God would be glorified and that He would save people as a result of your VBS!

### First Steps

Become very familiar with the drama scripts by reading each day’s script several times. Get to know each of the characters before you cast the parts and schedule your first rehearsal. Also, because each facility is unique, it may be necessary to adapt the script and stage directions somewhat to your particular situation.

### Casting

The drama is written with six main parts and one small, last day only, part. The largest role is Mr. Harper. Some parts are preferably male and some preferably female; however,

the scripts can be adapted depending upon the gender of the actors available.

#### MAIN AND SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

All parts are five-day appearances unless indicated otherwise.

Mr. Harper—Male (or Female)

Terrie Underwood—Female

Rob Henshaw—Male

Storm Weathers—Male

Katherine Kent—Female

Mr. Kendall (Days 1, 3, and 4)—Male

#### MINOR PARTS

Jimmy (Day 5 only)—Male (or Female)

Because the drama is so important, take great care in choosing your actors. Choose teens or adults who not only have some dramatic ability but also are dependable and work well with other people. This will make your job easier and more enjoyable. Make sure the actors understand the level of commitment required before they agree to volunteer.

### Extended Script Option

Depending on the number of available actors you have for your VBS drama and their drama experience, you may want to consider the extended script option that is provided on the Resource DVD-ROM. This version of the drama has one additional character; and as a result, the scripts are a bit longer. Along with the extended scripts, extended version character descriptions, costume suggestions, and props lists are also provided.

## REHEARSAL AND PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

The following schedule should be used as a guide and should not be considered a comprehensive list of “to do” items. You will need to add to or adapt the schedule depending upon your own particular situation.

### Eight Weeks before VBS

- Host an orientation meeting with your entire cast.
- Distribute the daily scripts.
- Read through two or three of the scripts to acquaint the actors with the storyline and characters.
- Establish a rehearsal schedule. (Make sure cast members bring their calendars with them.) Begin weekly rehearsals immediately and twice weekly rehearsals four weeks before VBS. In addition, an extended dress rehearsal (3–4 hours) of all five scripts on stage should be scheduled for the weekend just before VBS begins.
- Communicate expectations regarding attendance at rehearsals and behavior during each rehearsal.
- Exchange cell phone numbers and email addresses. An email loop is very helpful to pass along important information in a hurry, but be sure everyone checks his/her email on a regular basis before you decide to use this method.
- Encourage the actors to read the scripts daily.

### Seven Weeks before VBS

- Conduct a read-through of each day’s script with the entire cast.
- Encourage actors to read the scripts daily.

### Six Weeks before VBS

- Focusing on one script (or two) per rehearsal, begin to block scenes (movement and positioning of characters).
- Encourage actors to read scripts daily and begin to learn their lines.
- Meet with set design and construction crew to discuss set design.

### Five Weeks before VBS

- Focusing on one script (or two) per rehearsal, continue to block scenes.
- Encourage actors to read scripts daily and learn their lines.

- Remind actors that starting next week, rehearsals will be held twice each week.

### Four Weeks before VBS

- Focusing on one script (or two) per rehearsal, continue to block scenes.
- Encourage actors to learn their lines.
- Purchase/collect set materials.

### Three Weeks before VBS

- Focusing on one script (or two) per rehearsal, continue to block scenes.
- Begin to limit the use of scripts by the actors.
- Discuss costume needs and assign collection of props.
- Create set pieces.

### Two Weeks before VBS

- Continue with blocking rehearsals. (Limit use of scripts.)
- Discuss rehearsal schedule for next week (the most important week of rehearsals!) reminding the cast of the extended dress rehearsal of all five scripts on stage. (Allow four hours, if possible.)
- Discuss progress regarding costumes and props.
- Meet with sound and lighting crew to discuss microphones, music, sound effects, and lighting.
- Continue work on set pieces.

### One Week before VBS

- Conduct rehearsals with no scripts.
- Make sure all costumes are assembled and all props are collected.
- Install set early in the week for dress rehearsal on the weekend.
- Conduct an extended dress rehearsal of all five scripts on stage with sound and lighting.

### During VBS

- Conduct run-through rehearsals on stage before each day’s drama. Schedule auditorium to be “closed” between the opening and closing assemblies for this purpose.

## Tip Corner

- To help motivate actors to learn their lines, set deadlines to memorize each day's script.

- A complete read-through of all five scripts recorded on CD can be a handy tool to help the actors learn their lines.
- Resist the tendency to neglect rehearsing the Day 5 script because it's later in the VBS week. Your drama should end on a high note, instead of a weaker performance.

## A WORD ABOUT DRAMA FOR CHILDREN

### Blocking

The movement and positioning of characters is a vital part of a successful drama. Well-designed movements bring life to the scripts and keep things from stagnating. Given the fact that your audience is primarily children, it is necessary to be conscious of pace and energy. When things stagnate, children begin to lose interest, become fidgety, and start talking to their neighbors. Encourage your actors to learn their lines as quickly as possible so that more time can be devoted to developing good blocking.

### Voices, Gestures, and Facial Expressions

To further enhance the effectiveness of your dramas, be sure to use dramatic voices, gestures, and facial expressions (where reasonable and appropriate, of course). Even adding

a funny quirk or mannerism to one of the characters is a good way to liven things up. Children respond favorably to characters who are very dramatic.

### Foreign Accents

Accents can also make a character more interesting to listen to. If you have actors who can do them well, consider using this device with one or two of the characters, but don't overdo it. Check Internet sites for help with accents.

### Volume and Clarity

Children will quickly lose interest if they cannot adequately hear what your actors are saying. Therefore, continually remind your actors to speak loudly and clearly at all times. If possible, it is ideal for every actor to have a wireless microphone (with fresh batteries daily!).

## SUPPORT CREW

You, as the drama director, will need assistance in the following areas:

### Set Design and Construction

This may require a team of people to design (using the *Camp Kilimanjaro* set concept), purchase materials for, paint, and assemble the set.

### Sound and Lighting

In addition to your normal sound technician, you'll need someone to play the drama music and sound effects at the designated times throughout the week. Someone will also be needed to handle the lighting cues.

### Costumes and Props

For the most part, the actors can be responsible for their own costumes and props; however, it is helpful to have someone oversee and manage the collecting (or making), use, and return of costumes and props.

### Rehearsal Assistant

It is helpful to have another set of eyes and ears during each rehearsal. This person can take notes, offer suggestions, and when the time comes to limit the use of scripts, the assistant can feed lines to the actors as necessary.

## COSTUME SUGGESTIONS

The following costume descriptions are *suggestions only*. Costume stores and thrift shops are good sources for clothing and accessories. Volunteers willing to sew can make costume items from fabric store patterns. When a particular item cannot be found inexpensively or made easily, simply make an appropriate substitution.

### Tip Corner

- Check high school drama departments for costumes and accessories.
- Check the Internet for costume ideas.

#### MR. HARPER—CAMP DIRECTOR

- Khaki pants, Camp Kilimanjaro t-shirt, safari vest, hiking shoes/boots, wristwatch.

#### TERRIE UNDERWOOD—DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANT

- Khaki pants, Camp Kilimanjaro t-shirt, safari vest, hiking shoes/boots.

#### ROB HENSHAW—CHANNEL 9 SPORTSCASTER / TEAM LEADER

- Being a sports and fitness enthusiast, Rob should be clad in the latest sportswear.

#### STORM WEATHERS—CHANNEL 9 WEATHERMAN

- To fit his personality, Storm's clothing should be "loud" (bright, crazy colors and patterns).

#### KATHERINE KENT—CHANNEL 9 ANCHORWOMAN

- Katherine is quite the diva, so she should have a different glamorous outfit for each day, if possible. And don't forget that hot pink is her favorite color and that she absolutely LOVES shoes!

#### MR. KENDALL—PARK RANGER

- Khaki shorts (or knickers), khaki short-sleeve collared shirt, hiking shoes/boots, ranger-type hat or pith helmet, wristwatch.

#### JIMMY—DAY 5 ONLY

- Typical teenager attire.

#### DAY 5—MT. KILIMANJARO SUMMIT ATTIRE (MR. HARPER, ROB, STORM, AND KATHERINE)

- Heavy winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, trekking poles and goggles (optional), long pants, hiking boots.

## DAILY PROPS LIST

### Day 1

- Terrie's broom
- Box with Proverbs books (see NOTES below)
- Rob's backpack
- Katherine's suitcases
- Katherine's "favorite pink shoes" (one with a broken heel)
- Katherine's "shoes" suitcase (see NOTES below)

### Day 2

- Breakfast table, chairs, tablecloth
- Breakfast table service (plates, bowls, silverware, glasses, napkins, etc.)
- Katherine's towel, pajamas, bathrobe, and slippers
- Katherine's list
- Terrie's breakfast tray (see NOTES below)
- Small table or service cart (for food trays, pitchers, extra table service)
- Mr. Harper's Bible and devotional booklet
- Terrie's napkin
- Bigfoot footprint (see NOTES below)

**Day 3**

- Carton of “lemon-lime” soda (see NOTES below)
- Terrie’s tablet computer
- Rob’s jogging outfit, towel, small football
- Rob’s TV video camera (see NOTES below)
- Microphone
- Cue cards

**Day 4**

- Mr. Kendall’s briefcase with laptop, clipboard, pad, and pen
- Mr. Kendall’s magic squirting nickel (just a regular nickel)
- Small table or service cart for Mr. Kendall’s laptop
- Rob’s TV video camera
- Katherine’s pink shoes and large pink tote
- Terrie’s broom
- Microphone
- Nightstand Bible
- Small piece of fur

**Day 5 (Act 1)**

- Kilimanjaro Summit Mini-Set (see NOTES below)
- Winter coats, hats, gloves (goggles, trekking poles, optional)
- Rob’s TV video camera
- Log book, pen, and box
- Mr. Harper’s camera
- Katherine’s business card

**Day 5 (Act 2)**

- Fire pit (see NOTES below)
- Chairs
- Lanterns with battery-powered candle lights (the more the better!)
- Marshmallows and skewers
- Storm’s poem
- Rob’s list
- Mr. Harper’s Bible and devotional booklet
- Rob’s backpack (for Jimmy)
- Rob’s Proverbs book (for Jimmy)

**NOTES****BOX WITH PROVERBS BOOKS**

Find a small brown cardboard shipping box and a couple small, thin paperback books of identical size. Then cover the books with solid color scrapbook paper or cardstock. Insert small slips of paper with the two Scripture verses into one of them so Terrie can actually read them from the book.

**KATHERINE’S “SHOES” SUITCASE**

Because this suitcase must open on cue, find one with a latch that will open easily and discretely. Then fill with ladies shoes of all types and colors.

**TERRIE’S BREAKFAST TRAY**

A large wooden tray with two covered dishes—one for “French toast dipped in ostrich egg” (use Texas toast) and one for “warthog sausage oatmeal” (use packets of instant oatmeal). And don’t forget to prepare the Texas toast and oatmeal, or the actors won’t have anything to eat! A basket or tray of fruit (grapes, bananas, etc.) should already be on the table.

**BIGFOOT FOOTPRINT**

Use two pieces of brown craft foam to create a large footprint (at least 18 in. long) with six toes. Then add tape to the back and place it on the floor where you want it.

**CARTON OF “LEMON-LIME” SODA**

Use green plastic soda bottles with twist-on lids. Then fill at least one of the bottles with water for Katherine. Place the bottles on a small table or service cart.

**ROB’S TV VIDEO CAMERA**

Use an old VHS camera or make a prop out of cardboard boxes and tubes. (Check the Internet for ideas.) And don’t forget to include a camera bag to carry it in.

**MT. KILIMANJARO SUMMIT MINI-SET**

FOR DAY 5 (ACT 1) ONLY. Directly in front of your main VBS set, erect this temporary, mini-set front and center stage. The set should consist of a “sky” backdrop with an Uhuru Peak sign in front. See the Set Construction and Design section for more information.

**FIRE PIT**

Create a fire pit with bricks or use the raised steel variety. Then place a (faux) flame lamp inside and surround with wood logs.

## MEDIA & SOUND EFFECTS LIST

### Daily

- Theme Music

### Day 1

- “Elephant” sfx

### Day 2

- Weather Forecast “Today” slide
- Weather Forecast “Tonight” slide
- “Safari Animals” sfx

### Day 3

- Bigfoot slide
- “Bones Cracking” sfx
- “Bigfoot Howl” sfx

### Day 4

- Goldfish slide
- Ostrich slide
- Orangutan slide
- “Thunder” sfx
- “Wind” sfx
- “Bigfoot Howl” sfx

### Day 5

- (Act 1) “Mountain Wind” sfx
- (Act 1) Screen Message slide: “Daybreak on Day 7...”
- (Act 2) “Bigfoot Howl” sfx

