

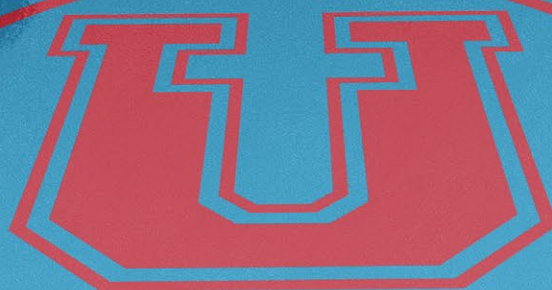


MISSION BRIEFING

Junior

ACCESS
GRANTED

TEACHER
GUIDE



AnswersVBS
SPY U

Course Overview

Theme Verse: Psalm 86:10

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Title	Uncovering Counterfeits	Finding Fingerprints	Collecting Clues	Cracking Codes	Hot on the Trail
Bible Passages	1 Kings 18:20–39	Various Scriptures	Various Scriptures	Luke 15:11–32	Mark 12:28–34; Revelation 3:15–16
Lesson Focus	God is unique because he is the only true God. Today, we'll uncover counterfeit gods and discover the God of the Bible.	God is unique because he is one God in three persons. Today, we'll be on the lookout for those persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.	God is unique because he himself came to earth to rescue us. Today, we'll be challenged to admit, believe, and forever receive him.	God is unique; he is beyond description! Today, we'll crack codes to track down some of his attributes.	God is unique because he wants to have a personal relationship with us. Today, we'll learn our mission to keep God as our first love.
Apologetics Content	There's only one true God. All others are counterfeits.	The Trinity is a reality but also a mystery.	The biggest difference between Christianity and other religions is who Jesus is.	God's character is like no other.	Unlike other religions, our God is about relationship. He is loving and personal.
Commit This to Memory	1 Kings 18:39	2 Corinthians 13:14	John 17:3	Psalm 145:8–9	Mark 12:30
Daily Cipher	1 True God	3 in 1	God Cares 4 U	God Is . . .	Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength
Animal Pals	Camo the Mimic Octopus	Loop the Sugar Glider	Scout the California Sea Lion	Gracie the Kunekune Pig	Homer the Homing Pigeon
Truth Sleuth Crafts	A-maze-ing God Maze Master of Disguise Mimic	Spy Kit Trinity Keepsake Ornament	Ichthys “Jesus Fish” Verse Decoder	Forgiving Father Agamograph One True God Bible Bookmark	Love God Magnet Secret Spy Bracelet
Truth Sleuth Science	Spot the Fake! Whose Writing Is It?	Unique Fingerprint Patterns Print Patrol	Insect Detectives pHantastic Experiment	Secret Ink Lab The Code of You!	If the Shoe Fits Decoding the Digital World
Top Secret Snacks	Mini Mimic Look-Alike Landmarks	Thumbprint Cookies Trinity Pizza	Classified Clues Bananagrams	Codebreaker Crunch Pig Slop	Mystery Muffins Hot on the Trail Popcorn
Fast Action Games	Disguise Dash Sneak Training 101	Triple Play Three-Legged Maneuvers	Search and Rescue Collect the Clues Kickball	Crack the Code Training Stations Prodigal Son Relay	Mission Possible Operation: IXΘΥΣ (Ichthys)
Cool Contests	Mystery M&M's	Secret Signals	Devise a Disguise	Code Cracking Bible Challenge	Mission Money Mania



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Junior Teacher Guide

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Printed in China.

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Your Mission

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to train special agents around the world to detect counterfeit religions and to know, love, and live for the one and only God.

At *Spy U*, the latest from Answers VBS, kids will be in training to become agents for the one true God. In this jam-packed week, the cadets will be trained in the following areas:

- Uncovering counterfeit gods and recognizing the only true God—the God of the Bible
- Finding that God is unique—one God in three persons
- Collecting clues to reveal how to become a child of God
- Cracking codes to discover attributes of God
- Discovering that God is not distant but personal, wanting to be their first love

Excitement and adventure await from the first minute of the day, when everyone gathers for the **All Agents Assembly**, which includes entertaining intros, catchy songs, a Mission Moment, and prayer.

Then the cadets rotate through five fun sites:

Mission Briefing at Spy U HQ, where God's Word is taught in hands-on ways.

Fast Action Games, where training challenges of the utmost fun are mastered.

Top Secret Snacks, where top level treats vanish in a hurry.

Truth Sleuth Science & Crafts, where cadets engage in hands-on science activities and crafts.

Operation: Missions, Music & Memory Verses, where kids can spend additional time learning songs and memory verses, and hearing about missions.

After training and mission assignments are completed, cadets regroup for the closing assembly, which includes more singing, contest results, and the highly anticipated daily drama. The drama is set in International City, a place that has drifted away from following the one true God. The Truth Mission Force is sent in to expose the truth about God. Agents Jordan Trace, Alex Cipher, and Riley Gizmo find foes in unlikely places as

their assignment takes them through unexpected twists and turns.

All this adds up to one great, high-impact week! Ready, agents? Do you copy? The world awaits!

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-charts, 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 (Agent) 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 *Spy U* may be new to you. For a list of helpful articles on the topics covered in this VBS program, please visit AnswersVBS.com/spyufa.

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.

Cadets: Groups of children (individual classes) named after countries (Truth Team Canada, Truth Team Japan, etc.). They will “graduate” from Spy U at the end of the week and earn the title of “Junior Agents.”

Truth Team Leaders: Group leaders who guide the cadets from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required of this position.

Mission Briefing: The Bible and apologetics lesson time happening at Spy University HQ.

Agents: Teachers at Spy University HQ.

Truth Sleuth Science & Crafts: Rotation site where crafts are made and science activities are explored.

Top Secret Snacks: Indoor or outdoor location where snacks are served.

Fast Action Games: Indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred) for recreation time.

Operation: Missions, Music & Memory Verses: Rotation site where kids can spend additional time learning songs and memory verses and hearing about missions.

Commit This to Memory: 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 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 AnswersVBS.com/spyuresources. Begin to pray and plan now and continue to pray during and after VBS.
3. In this guide:
 - » Teaching Tips are marked with a .
 - » Materials are listed next to each 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 containers 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 spy-themed clothes, such as a black T-shirt and pants. You can also wear the T-shirt and hat available from AnswersVBS.com.
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 foreign accent, or add something new to your "costume" each day, such as small stuffed animal pals 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) and keep eye contact as you share the lessons, ensuring each child senses your warmth and care.
10. 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.
11. Have Bible passages from the lessons bookmarked ahead of time and use your Bible throughout as noted. Show the importance of the Scriptures through your facial expressions and your actions.
12. 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.
13. Be aware of your church's safety protocols and appropriate touching policies.
14. 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.
15. If laminating a poster or supply is suggested, use clear packing tape or contact paper as a DIY method if a laminator is not available.
16. When kids are sitting on the floor for drawing or writing activities, give them a firm surface (e.g., 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 passages.
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: I spy

Kids: With my little eye

Teacher: Mission

Kids: Possible

Teacher: Crisscross (as they sit and cross legs)

Kids: Spy boss

Teacher: Jesus loves me

Kids: This I know

Teacher: For the Bible

Kids: Tells me so

Teacher: God is good

Kids: All the time

Teacher: And all the time

Kids: God is good

If You're Listening—Say, “If you're listening, put your hands on your head. If you're listening, stomp your foot,” and so on. See how fast everyone catches on.

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 start to 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—Say different categories for lining up in fun ways, such as the following:

- “If you are wearing black like an undercover agent, line up. Now, if you're wearing red, 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 schedule, 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, like 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. For example, “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 everyone else is busy. 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, kids often share some common characteristics. Use the following guidelines as a benchmark when looking at characteristics of children as a whole. Understanding how God has wired different age groups can help us be more effective in teaching and interacting with them.

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

Characteristics of Children

Children have some common characteristics:

- They are born 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 things, touching things, smelling and hearing things, and being involved.
- Children need to be loved, encouraged, and praised.
- Children are rapidly growing and changing.
- Children trust the adults who are responsible for them.
- Children can get discouraged with criticism and failure.
- Children are eager to learn and are curious about the world and about God.

Characteristics of Juniors

Physical Characteristics

Juniors vary widely as they grow in height, weight, and physical maturity. Some may be experiencing a growth spurt launching them into puberty and causing them to tire easily. They're continuing to grow in physical abilities. Some are becoming known for athletic abilities. Juniors enjoy going places and doing interesting things. They enjoy games and competitions.

Takeaways for Us

- Don't comment on physical appearance, such as someone's height. Juniors can feel sensitive and awkward about their bodies.
- Some may show physical, musical, or academic gifts/talents. Help each child realize that they are God's masterpiece, created exactly as they are for a special purpose.
- Some love being active, and some don't. But it's good to keep them involved and moving.

Emotional/Social Characteristics

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

Takeaways for Us

- Make sure the teens and young adults in their VBS world are good role models.
- Don't tear down Juniors or resort to sarcasm. Be an encourager, be a good listener, and be patient with them.
- Show interest in each child, helping them sense your care and interest in them.
- Incorporate small group discussion into the lesson time with activities that use groups or pairings.
- Be careful to walk worthy—act and speak in godly ways.

Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

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

Takeaways for Us

- Ask thought-provoking spiritual questions. Be a safe person to bounce thoughts and ideas off of.
- Listen well and pray with them.
- They can spot inconsistencies. Make sure to walk the walk and not just talk the talk.
- Be careful about asking children to read out loud unless they volunteer or you know they can read well.
- Give them opportunities to be involved in mission/serving projects.
- Challenge them to grow in their love for God and his Word. Help them set up Bible reading plans and encourage them to memorize passages of Scripture.
- Be careful to speak accurately and truthfully. Show respect for your Bible and let them see your love for it and for the Lord.

Special Needs

The *Special Needs Teacher Supplement* (1240530) can help you accommodate and modify these lessons for those who need it, either in your regular classroom or in a self-contained classroom.

Mission Briefing Bible Time

As cadets meet at HQ for their mission briefing, they will be trained on how to detect counterfeits and recognize the one true God.

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

Introduce It! (5–10 minutes): Each day, kids will meet at headquarters for 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. A shorter (20 minutes) [one-person script](#) is also available in the Resource Download (see Resources – Teaching – All Ages).

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 Agents Assembly—Opening: Large Meeting Area (Everyone Together)		
9:20–10:00	Mission Briefing Bible Time	Truth Sleuth Science and Crafts	Fast Action Games and Top Secret Snacks
10:05–10:45	Fast Action Games and Top Secret Snacks	Mission Briefing Bible Time	Truth Sleuth Science and Crafts
10:50–11:30	Truth Sleuth Science and Crafts	Fast Action Games and Top Secret Snacks	Mission Briefing Bible Time
11:35–Noon	All Agents Assembly—Closing: Large Meeting Area (Everyone Together)		

Memory Verse Songs

Encourage your kids to learn their memory verses the easy way—by singing them! The contemporary memory verse songs are produced by Seeds Kids Worship (ESV), and the traditional memory verse songs are produced by Majesty Music (KJV). They feature the full verses. Both are available with the Music Leader Download, which comes with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit. If you

choose to use these songs, we suggest using them during the memory verse time in each lesson. The memory verse songs and the theme songs are together on one student CD. Student CDs in packs of 10 are available if you would like each student to have a copy of the songs (Contemporary—1240610; Traditional—1240620). You can also find streaming options at AnswersVBS.com/streaming.

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).

Spy U Map and Stickers: Use these sticker sets as a fun, daily review of each lesson. These are available in packs of 10.

- Map and Stickers sets (1240780)

Student Guides: These daily, age-appropriate take-home papers feature a lesson review activity, the memory verse, and a suggested verse review game. The “Go and Do” section 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. (This is what our test churches do.) If you send the guides home, motivate the kids to do them because they are full of good information! Give them to the Truth Team Leaders to pass out at the end of the day. Then have them check with the kids the following day to see how they did. Consider asking your VBS director to give contest bonus points to the individuals and teams for their hard work. These are available in packs of 10.

- Junior ESV (1240710); Primary ESV (1240720)
- Junior KJV (1241320); Primary KJV (1241330)

Spy Training Manual: These fun, interactive booklets feature the daily memory verses to decipher and a place to stamp (1240930) 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! memory verse review section of the lesson if you have time, or they can be stamped as the kids arrive at VBS. These are available in packs of 10.

- Junior/Primary ESV (1240910)
- Junior/Primary KJV (1241370)

Bookmarks: These are available in packs of 10 and can be passed out at the end of class or at the end of the suggested day.

- Gospel (1240760)—Day 3
- God Is . . . (1240770)—Day 4

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 Truth Team Leaders can pass one of these to each student on the last day of class at dismissal. These are available in packs of 10.

- Booklets (1240750)

Decorating Decisions

It's no secret that boys and girls alike love a spy theme! So use your creativity along with the tools and ideas in this section to capture the imagination of the kids with your classroom decorations. A colorful and engaging environment helps children learn better, remember more, and leave with happy memories.



Key Decorating Elements

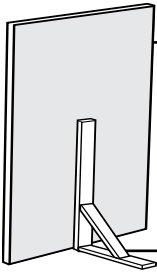
Classroom Set

Each day, the cadets will gather in the Mission Briefing room at Spy U HQ where God's Word is taught. To serve as a focal point for the teaching, create a set with a high-tech aesthetic. Use bold colors and geometric designs, a world map and international wall clocks. You can also add screens and keyboards. See the Resource Download for [clip art images](#). Construct your backdrop using sheets of corrugated cardboard, rigid foam insulation, or use your classroom wall.

Classroom Scene Setter

As a quick and easy alternative to making your own classroom set, a scene setter is available for purchase (1241260 or 1241360). For the paper scene setter, simply mount the panels onto a rigid material using double-sided carpet tape, clear packing tape, or staples, and prop them up. Or you can attach them directly to a wall with mounting putty, Mavalus tape, or double-sided tape on top of painter's tape. For the fabric scene setter, use the grommets and fishing line to hang it from the ceiling or from a PVC frame.





Prop up your set, and any freestanding 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 weighed 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 set.

Clip Art Images

See the Resource Download for numerous [clip art images](#). Hook up a laptop with the clip art images to a projector to enlarge and transfer the images onto roll paper, posterboard, corrugated cardboard, or foam insulation sheets. Prop them up with wooden supports (jacks) or mount them to a wall.

How to Enlarge and Transfer Clip Art

COMPUTER AND PROJECTOR

1. Download the clip art onto a computer or USB. Hook up the computer/USB to a projector.
2. Using the projector to enlarge the clip art, shine the image onto the paper or rigid material, adjusting it as necessary for the size desired.
3. Place roll paper or a rigid material against a wall.
4. Trace the image outlines onto the paper or rigid material.
5. Paint the image and cut it out.

OVERHEAD PROJECTOR

1. Photocopy the clip art onto transparencies.
2. 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.
3. Follow steps 3–5 above.

Other Tips & Miscellaneous Ideas

- Use a raised platform or place a rug in front of your set to create a stage effect.
- Add some LED light strips to accent parts of your set.
- Place a pretend hand scanner at your entry door. See Resource Download for a sample design.
- Place “Restricted Area,” “Classified Personnel Only,” “Top Secret,” and “Classified” signs in various places.
- Display the Truth Mission Force logo in a prominent place. See Resource Download for a clip art image.
- Install some fake security cameras near your stage. They can be made cheaply and easily with small cardboard boxes and paper towel tubes.
- Add a thin (1/2-inch) black border to your painted props. This helps them stand out better and makes the colors appear more vibrant.
- Because corrugated cardboard tends to curl when only one side is painted, first apply a quick single coat of paint to the back.

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!

Spy Lingo

- A** **“Affirmative”**—yes
Aka—also known as
- B** **Birdwatcher**—name for a spy in British Intelligence
Bug—listening device
- C** **Compromised**—when an operation or agent is uncovered
“Copy that”—I heard and understood the message
- D** **Dead drop**—a secret location where materials can be left and retrieved
“Do you copy?”—Are you there? Do you understand?
- E** **Ears only**—information too confidential (secret) to be written down
Expats—people who live in a country other than where they grew up
Eyes only—documents too confidential (secret) to be talked about
- F** **Flaps and seals**—using tools to open letters, read them, and replace them without tearing the envelope
FYEO—for your eyes only
FYI—for your information
- G** **Gather intelligence**—collect information
- H** **Hijack**—unauthorized seizure of a vehicle, person, or system
HQ—headquarters
- I** **Infiltrate**—to secretly gain access to a secure area
Informant—someone who provides information about another person’s secret actions
- J** **Julius Caesar code**—used by Julius Caesar and commonly called the Caesar cipher, which replaces each letter of the alphabet with another letter that is a fixed number of spaces away
- K** **Keyboard cipher**—a code made by shifting fingers on a keyboard by a fixed number of spaces and typing from that position
- L** **Listening post**—site where audio surveillance from bugs and other devices can be heard
- M** **M15**—the United Kingdom’s intelligence agency that covers domestic affairs
M16—the United Kingdom’s intelligence agency that covers foreign affairs
Mole—a double agent
- N** **“Negative”**—no
Neutralize—to make a spy ineffective by foiling their plans
- O** **Op**—operation
“Over and out”—goodbye
0100 hours—one o’clock in the morning
- P** **Pocket litter**—items in a spy’s pocket that verify their assumed identity
- Q** **Q gadgets**—legendary, imaginative spy tools often disguised as everyday objects
- R** **Ring**—a network of spies or criminals
Rolled-up—when an operation goes wrong and/or an agent is taken into custody
- S** **Sanitize**—to delete information in a document
Swim—to travel
- T** **“That’s classified”**—that’s private information
Troll operative—an online spy who creates confusion and conflict in the online platforms of other countries
Turn—to force or convince a spy to work against their country as a double agent
“10-4”—okay
- U** **U-2**—the world’s most famous spy plane
- V** **Virus**—malicious computer code meant to disrupt or extract information from the targeted system
Voice-scanning software—technology that uses your voice as a password and is strong enough to even tell identical twins apart
- W** **Walk-in**—a defector who enters a spy office to give intelligence information in exchange for something
- X** **X-ray vision**—advanced technology that allows you to see through walls or containers
- Y** **Year of the Spy**—1985, the year that an unusually high number of spies were caught working in the United States
- Z** **Zephyr**—a high-altitude surveillance system



BIBLE PASSAGE

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
1 Kings 18:20–39

LESSON FOCUS

God is unique because he is the only true God. Today, we'll uncover counterfeit gods and discover the God of the Bible.

APOLOGETICS CONTENT

There's only one true God. All others are counterfeits.

COMMIT THIS TO MEMORY

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God." 1 Kings 18:39

ANIMAL PAL

Camo the Mimic Octopus

DAILY CIPHER

1 True God

Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Introduce It!
Operation One True God
- Teach It!
Part 1: Uncovering Counterfeits Tests
Part 2: Views of God Game
Part 3: Animal Pal and Review Game
- Apply It!
Part 1: Commit This to Memory
Part 2: Go and Do

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read 1 Kings 18 several times.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials.
- For more information on false religions/gods and the one true God, visit AnswersVBS.com/spyufa.
- Pray.

Devotion 1: One True God

For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. Psalm 86:10

Imagine the confusion. Four hundred fifty prophets of Baal are limping about their altar, crying out and asking for their god to answer them by fire. The answer they receive? Utter silence. No response. They're doing everything they can to show their sincerity, to the point of harming themselves, and their god seemingly doesn't care. The confusion and desperation must have been palpable as the hours dragged on.

Then the scene shifts to Elijah. The odds are against him—450 to 1. Baal has 450 prophets desperately interceding beside a dry altar. The Lord has just Elijah and a sopping-wet altar. Yet, with the odds stacked against him, Elijah's simple prayer of faith gives us a glimpse into how God-focused he was: He asks that the Lord answer by fire so that the people may know who is God. He is zealous for God's glory and for the people to see that there is no contest between God and Baal. It's not as if there were two good options in the final "god matchup" and he didn't really know who would win. It's not like commentators couldn't agree on who was the better god. No, when Yahweh shows up, there is no contest. All competition is blown away. In fact, there is no competition. He alone is God.

In many ways, our culture is similar to what Elijah encountered. Instead of Baal, we have idols of all types—from the literal idols of Hinduism and Buddhism to the heart idols that people worship, like success, money, or romance. As one Christian figure wrote, our hearts tend to be idol factories (Calvin). We today still need the truth Elijah demonstrated in ancient times—the Lord alone is worthy of our worship and allegiance, and loving him with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength is the only way to find peace and meaning in this chaotic, idol-filled

world. Metaphorically, we will limp along as the prophets of Baal did until we bow the knee to the one true God.

As we share the account of Elijah and the prophets of Baal with the children under our care today, let's remind ourselves that the God of Elijah who answered by fire is the same God yesterday, today, and forever. We too serve the God who is there and who isn't silent (Schaeffer). In a world that is peppered with confusion about who has the final authority in our lives and where truth can be found, this is an immense comfort: The one true God is alive and well, and he is still at work in our world. We can pray like Elijah that the people in our spheres of influence would know that he alone is God. Consider the words of the hymn "God Only Wise" by Walter Chalmers Smith in 1867 as you prepare your heart to serve the Lord today.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

Introduce It!

Operation One True God (3–5 minutes)

Study your lessons each day and know them well but feel free to say things in your own way. An **EDITABLE VERSION** of each lesson is available to download, as well as a shortened (20 minutes) **ONE-PERSON LESSON** (visit AnswersVBS.com/spyresources – Resources – Teacher – All Ages; also available or purchase). The teaching posters are also available as slides.

PREP: Prepare your set backdrop and costumes. Bookmark the Scripture passages in your Bible used in today's lesson.

As the cadets come in, you may want to come out from somewhere, using walkie-talkies and signing off on an imaginary conversation.

Teacher 1: Welcome, cadets. I'm Agent _____. Good to see that you've arrived safely at Spy U HQ, also known as (aka) Spy University Headquarters. Here at our international base in International City, people gather from all over the world for training. We have people from England, Germany, Canada, the US, Brazil . . . (say a handful of countries). Tell the person you're sitting next to what country you are from.

Teacher 2: I'm Agent _____. As you may know, we're members of the Truth Mission Force, a specially trained squad of Christians living around the world, finding fake gods—yes, there are fakes out there—and teaching people about the one true God. The one true God is the treasure of the whole world!

Teacher 1: We have a theme verse that everyone is required to commit to memory. It comes from the one true God's one true collection of books, the Bible, which is the most important book for all people everywhere. The verse says: *Recite Psalm 86:10. Let's stand for God's Word and learn that now as your first assignment. Refer to the THEME MEMORY VERSE POSTER to teach the verse. Emphasize the "You alone are God" part. Sit back down.*

Teacher 2: You're starting out your week here as cadets, but by the end of the week, with careful training, you will be graduating from Spy U with the rank of Junior Agents.

Teacher 1: The case you are being assigned to is called Operation One True God. This case is of global importance, impacting every single person around the world. Every day, you will have a mission briefing here at HQ to learn more about Operation One True God. You'll learn various mission techniques and will need to take special note of all that is said.

Teacher 2: Today's mission briefing is on learning to uncover counterfeits. Let's begin.

Teach It!

Part 1: Uncovering Counterfeits Tests (10–15 minutes)

Test 1: Do You See What I See?

PREP: Either print the **F TEST SHEET** on 11 x 17 paper, write it on a piece of poster board so it is bigger, or use the slide.

Teacher 1: Do all of Test 1. Who knows what the word "counterfeit" means? Take answers. Right, it's a fake. Any Truth Mission Force cadet must be very observant so he can detect fakes. You will now be given a series of tests to train you in being observant and detecting fakes.

Hold up the **F TEST SHEET**, poster board, or slide. This is the F test sheet. Read it to yourself silently as I read it aloud. Then count the *F*s. See how many you come up with. Do not say your answer out loud. Let's commence.

"Some of my favorite animals are rabbits, frogs, and foxes. I have one of each, which I keep in my family room. The rabbit is called Freddy, the frog is called Muffy, and the fox is called Lucy. I like Muffy the best of all."

♦ Theme Memory Verse Poster

- ☐ Bible or children's Bible
- ☐ Agent costumes for teachers
- ☐ Optional: Walkie-talkies
- ☐ Mounting putty, sticky tack, or tape for posters

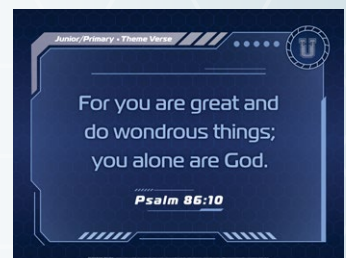
🌐 Download [these items](https://AnswersVBS.com/spyresources) from AnswersVBS.com/spyresources (Resources – Teaching – Junior).

🌐 Use fun names for yourselves: Agent Angie, Truth Sleuth Stanley, Operator Oscar, Wise Spy Susan, Detective Dan, Super Spy Sally.

🌐 If working as co-teachers, decide daily which parts of the lesson each of you will be responsible for teaching. Both should plan to dress in costumes.

🌐 Be familiar with the lesson, but don't memorize it. Place it on a clipboard to use as a reference.

🌐 The Bible is listed just once in each day's lesson, but plan to use it throughout. Mounting putty (aka sticky tack) is also listed just once for hanging posters.



★ F Test Sheet

- ☐ Optional: Sheet of poster board or slide of F Test

🌐 Skip Test 1 if you need more time.

Please be honest about your answers. The one true God is truth ([John 14:6](#)), and he wants Truth Mission Force cadets to be honest and true. Raise your hand if you thought there were 8 Fs? 9 Fs? 10? 11? 12? More than 12?

Let's examine the evidence carefully. We'll slowly and carefully count them together. [Do so](#).

If you said 14 Fs, you were correct. If you were wrong, perhaps you missed the word "of." Our minds don't always register words like that since it makes a "vvv" sound, so be alert!

You will agree that in this exercise, only one answer can logically be correct. All other answers are wrong. For instance, there can't be 8 Fs and 14 Fs at the same time, right? Only one is correct. Now let's move on.

Test 2: Finding Fakes

PREP: Run through this yourself before class to make sure you can identify the various parts mentioned that are on the US bills.

Teacher 2: [Do all of Test 2](#). This test helps you detect counterfeit money. Sometimes people up to no good try to make counterfeit (fake) money and pass it off as the real thing. So how can you know if the money you have is real or fake? [Hold up the bills](#). Look at these US bills. How do you know which are real and which are fake?

Professional agents carefully study what real bills look like. Because they are so well acquainted with what real ones look and feel like, they can detect when a fake one comes along. For instance, a real US bill has red and blue fibers in it.

[Pass around US bills and magnifying glasses so they can examine them for themselves.](#)

Often counterfeiters try to simulate, or copy, these fibers by printing tiny red and blue lines on their paper. But their lines are on *top* of the money rather than *in* the money, so an experienced agent is able to detect that.

Also, real bills that are \$5 and higher (since 1990) have super tiny microprinting on them. Use your magnifying glass to see if you can find any microprinting on the bills.

Next, check out the tiny details with me. Use the magnifying glass to see the very sharp, crisp borders. [Look at it](#). The portrait is detailed and precise. [Look at it](#). The serial number is evenly spaced with the same color ink. [Look at it](#). All of these details are hard for counterfeiters to reproduce.

Now feel the bill. [Do so](#). US money is printed on special paper that isn't sold anywhere, and it uses ink that is slightly raised. You may be able to feel that, particularly if you run your fingers around the shoulder area of the portrait. See if you can feel ridges. [Do so](#).

[Optional if you have a bright light:](#) Finally, there are hidden watermarks in the bills (\$5 and up, since 1990). If you hold it up to a bright light, you'll be able to see them.

Test 3: Counterfeit Gods

PREP: Cut apart the **ELIJAH POSTER**. Print and highlight the **ELIJAH SCRIPTS**, using a different color for each part. Place on clipboards for the narrator, Elijah, and Ahab.

Teacher 1: Now we're on our third and most important test of all. We've talked about being observant and uncovering counterfeit money. The best way to do so is to know what real money is like just as the best way to find fake gods is to know what the real God is like. One counterfeit plot we're concerned about here at Spy U involves false, counterfeit gods. Counterfeit gods are not new. They've been around for a long time and have many recorded incidents in the Bible. Let's take a look at one of them that has to do with a counterfeit (false) god named Baal and compare that with what the real God is like. This absolutely true historical account is found in 1 Kings 18 and happened almost 3,000 years ago (915 BC).

Share the account of Elijah and the prophets of Baal found in 1 Kings 18:20–39. Use the **ELIJAH SCRIPTS** and have one teacher be the narrator, one child be Elijah (a good reader if possible), one be Ahab, and the rest of the children be the prophets of Baal. Have the prophets of Baal speak the lines the narrator feeds to them, or make noise/dance around when the narrator indicates. Show the **ELIJAH POSTER** at the end.

- ☐ Fake and real US bills (real bills that are at least \$5)
- ☐ Nonbreakable magnifying glasses
- ☐ Optional: Bright light

🌐 If you have a large class and can't pass out money for this temporary use, make slides of the bills with arrows pointing to the various things discussed in the text.

🌐 If you've ever received a counterfeit bill, you may want to share your observations/story with the kids.

- ♦ **Elijah Poster**
- ★ **Elijah Script**, 3 copies on clipboards
- ☐ 3 different-colored highlighters



Teacher 2: The prophets of Baal had a false view of God. They worshipped a god of their own making, not the one true God. But did you know counterfeit gods aren't just from Bible times? Today, many people have a false or counterfeit view of God and have come up with different ideas about gods they worship. People worship or treasure fake gods that come in all kinds of forms, like cows or statues or even other people, like sports stars or movie stars. It's sad that they are treasuring the wrong thing. Of course, it's critical for all Truth Mission Force cadets to treasure the one true God. We must have the correct view of God and worship him and not the fakes.

Teacher 1: You see, every person on the planet has a view of God, but it may be a counterfeit view. What we think about God determines both how we live our lives now and where we will spend eternity, so it's a big deal to get our view of God right. There are basically five main views of God. Four of them are counterfeits and fall into one camp—the deceiver's camp. That leaves one other view, which is the right view. Understand that it isn't possible to believe all these views are equally true. Just like our test with the *F*s, where there was only one correct answer, we know there is only one correct view of God. Let's play a game to investigate this a bit deeper.

Part 2: Views of God Game (15 minutes)

PREP: Cut apart the **VIEWS OF GOD HEADINGS** and the **VIEWS OF GOD POSTERS**, but don't hang them up yet. Fold the **DAY 1 CIPHER POSTER** so the answer isn't showing.

Divide into two teams—boys vs. girls. Put up the headings when indicated below. Leave enough room to put each **VIEWS OF GOD POSTER** underneath the correct heading.

Teacher 2: We're going to share a little info that you'll need to know to successfully complete this mission, the Views of God game, so listen carefully, cadets. First, there are two main camps, "The One True God" and "The Deceiver." Put the headings up with space between.

Camp One: The One True God

Teacher 1: Point to **The One True God** heading. As mentioned, there's only one view of God in camp one. **VIEW 1**—the One True God. Remember how the Bible tells us he is God alone? Nobody else. So this view is the only one that is true. This is the God of the Bible. He is the creator of the universe (**Genesis 1:1**) and the creator of you (**Psalm 139**)!

Camp Two: The Deceiver (Liar)

Teacher 2: But then we have the deceiver's camp. There are four main views in this camp—and they're all wrong. All wrong views of God come from the deceiver, who is called the father of lies. Does anyone know who the deceiver is? **Satan**. Yes, it's Satan, the devil. He's against everything God is and does and wants to get as many people as he can to follow his false views. Remember: God is truth so we can trust him. But Satan is a liar, so we can't trust him or any of his views of God. These views can take on many forms and look very different, but they are still all wrong. We know they are wrong because they don't line up with what the Bible says.

Teacher 1: **VIEW 2**—No God. Put this under **The Deceiver** heading. Some people believe there is no god. This is called atheism—"a" for "no" and "theism" for "god." Thinking there's no god is still a view of God, even though it's not correct. This view, as with all the deceiver's views, is based on what people think, not on God's Word.

Teacher 2: **VIEW 3**—One False God. Put this under **The Deceiver** heading, to the right of View 2. Some people believe there is one god, which is called monotheism—"mono" for "one" and "theism" for "god"—but this god is not the same god as the one true God of the Bible. It is one *false* god. Each group in this category makes up their own version of a god, based on people's ideas rather than what the Bible says. Many of these groups reject the Trinity, which we'll talk about tomorrow.

Teacher 1: **VIEW 4**—Many Gods. Put this under **The Deceiver** heading, to the right of View 3. Some people believe there are many gods, which is called polytheism—"poly" for "many" and "theism" for "gods." Many ancient cultures, such as the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans, believed in many gods. Today, there are still those who believe there are many gods.

☼ Baal was considered the god of rain (among other things) and should have been able to send lightning to kindle the wood. Elijah gave Ahab's prophets all the advantages in this contest, from letting them go first to calling on their rain god. It didn't help. Only the one true God has power!

♦ **Views of God Headings**

♦ **Views of God Posters**

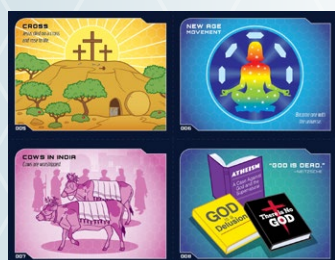
♦ **Day 1 Cipher Poster**

★ **Game Scoring Sheet**

☐ One pair of large fuzzy dice or inflatable dice



Some children's movies portray various views of gods, if you'd like to mention any or show quick clips—20 seconds each or less. If and when kids do watch these movies, it can be helpful for them to be aware of the views being shown. The test churches showed clips at the end of the Views of God game and it was very effective. Possible clips include: *Hercules* with Zeus and Hera when Hercules was born (many gods), *Prince of Egypt* with the Power of Ra song (many gods), *Mulan* with the ancestor worship (many gods), *Pocahontas* with Grandmother Willow (all is part of god), *Moana* with Te Fiti (all is part of god), and *The Chronicles of Narnia* with Aslan (one true God).



Teacher 2: VIEW 5—All Is Part of God. Put this under The Deceiver heading, to the right of View 4.

Some people believe that all of nature is god, so anybody and anything is part of god. This is called pantheism—"pan" for "all" and "theism" for "gods." This means the grass, cows, the sun, and even people can all be part of god. This group generally worships nature and often uses symbols and images in their worship. There is sometimes overlap between views 4 and 5, such as with Hinduism.

Begin the game by holding up one picture at a time and reading the accompanying text below. Each cadet puts up either 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 fingers to indicate which view he thinks it is—one true God (1), no god (2), one false god (3), many gods (4), or all is part of god (5). (Note that views 2–5 are numbered on the poster headings.) If most of a team gets it right, have a representative come up and roll the dice. Give the team the number of points indicated on the **GAME SCORING SHEET**. Do as many examples as time allows. Whichever team has the most points wins.

As you go through the views in the game below, make sure to emphasize that God cares about each person on this earth. Each is precious to him, and he wants them to know the truth. We should feel the same way. It makes us sad to see people deceived by wrong views of God.

- Darwin Fish**—A man named Charles Darwin taught that God did not make the world, but that it came about all on its own through natural evolutionary processes. His ideas caught on, and now this view states that the world came about on its own without any Creator. **No god (2).**
- Greek Gods**—People who believed this view worshipped many Greek gods with names such as Zeus, Athena, and Apollo. These made-up gods made lots of mistakes and were selfish. **Many gods (4).**
- Christian Science**—This view has a holy book that teaches that evil and matter don't exist; therefore, there's no such thing as sickness or sin. It states that there is a god, but doesn't accept the one true God described in the Bible. **False god (3).**
- Jainism**—People who believe this view think many things are gods, so they wear masks to avoid swallowing bugs, because they think bugs are sacred. They also carry brooms to sweep the path so they won't step on any insects. **Many gods (4) or All is part of god (5).**
- Cross**—Jesus, who is God, died on the cross and was raised to life on the third day. His resurrection from the dead is celebrated at what we call Easter or Resurrection Sunday. **One true God (1).**
- New Age Movement**—This view states that a person can become one with the universe because all energy comes from the same source. **All is part of god (5).**
- Cows in India**—This view (Hinduism) states that cows are to be worshipped and not killed, so the cows just roam around the streets. **Many gods (4) or All is part of god (5).**
- "God Is Dead"**—This view states that there is no reason to believe there is a God. **No god (2).**
- Christmas**—Christmas is a time of joy for people with this view because it is a time to remember that God sent his Son, Jesus, to earth, as described in the Bible. **One true God (1).**
- Communism**—This view encourages trust in the government to take care of everyone. Communist people who make up the government don't believe in God or God's rules, but make up their own rules that everyone must follow. **No god (2).**
- Native Americans Worshipping Nature**—This view states that gods are in the wind, the sun, and everything created. **All is part of god (5).**
- Pilgrimage to Mecca**—This view states that there is a god named Allah who is to be worshipped. Allah expects his people to make a journey to a place called Mecca at least once in their lifetime. Allah requires this of them to have a chance to get to heaven. In this view, people have to work hard to try to get to heaven. **False god (3).**
- Eat, Drink, and Be Merry**—This view proposes that there is no heaven—only the here and now—so people better live it up while they're alive. **No god (2).**
- A Missionary for Christ**—People with this view believe the Bible contains the best news ever. It tells about Jesus, who is God, and about his perfect life, death, and resurrection.

He offers eternal life to those who repent of their sin and believe in him. Believers want to share this good news with others around the world. [One true God \(1\)](#).

15. Aboriginal Beliefs—This view encourages prayer to a variety of gods, often found in different forms in nature. [All is part of god \(5\)](#).
16. Mayan Temple—People who believed this view worshipped many gods with names such as Ah Peku (god of thunder) and Cizin (god of death). They built special temples to their gods. [Many gods \(4\)](#).

Determine who won, then point out that the deceiver's camp is much larger than the one true God's camp. This should not come as a surprise, because Jesus told us it would be this way. Read Matthew 7:13–14. Explain that all wrong views of God have something in common—people have to do something to make it to whatever they call “heaven.” The one true God is different because he has done it for you! It is by grace (a gift), not works, that Christians are saved. It should be a red flag any time you are told you have to do this or that good thing to make it to heaven.

Teacher 1: So as we wrap up our game, let me remind you that all these ideas can't be equally right. Remember the sentences with the *F*s you counted? Only one of these five views is correct. Which is it? [View 1](#). Yes, view 1—One True God.

Teacher 2: But you may wonder how we know that One True God is the right view. Well, all good Truth Mission Force cadets look for evidence, right? So if we want to find out about God, let's go to the most outstanding source for evidence—the Bible. [Hold it up](#).

Teacher 1: The Bible is the only book in the world *written by God*. He used over 40 different men over a period of 1,500 years to record the words he wanted them to write. Even with all those people over all that time, the message of each book fits together perfectly like a puzzle! Since the Bible is from God, we know it tells the truth, because God, being perfect, can only tell the truth. And it's cool that historical and scientific evidence confirms what the Bible says. For example, archaeologists have found places and objects that line up perfectly with what it says in the Bible. They've found the remains of places in the Bible, like Abraham's home city of Ur, the pool of Siloam, and King Hezekiah's tunnel. The Bible is the most reliable book on the planet—the only one all people in the world can trust to be completely true. So the Bible is the place to go to accurately learn about God.

Teacher 2: Your job from now on, cadets, is to get to know the treasure of the world—the one true God. How do you get to know the real God? From the Bible. Listen to the Bible, read it, go to church, study it, love it, obey it. Also, be alert for counterfeits. Always remember: There aren't other gods—just other *views* of gods that men have made up! Let's see if we can figure out the daily cipher to remind us of this important truth.

Show them the [DAY 1 CIPHER POSTER](#) with the answer portion folded up. See if they can decode it, then reveal the answer. Move on to Part 3.

Part 3: Animal Pal and Review Game (5 minutes)

A Spy U Map (available to purchase from [AnswersVBS.com](#)—1240780) is a fun way to review each day. Today, the kids will add the first day's animal pal. Then try the Beat the Clock game for a quick, one-minute review. Use a cell phone for a timer or use the [60-second countdown video](#).

Animal Pal

Hold up 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 what kind of animal? A mimic octopus. What's his name? Camo, for camouflage. What does it mean to be camouflaged? To blend in to its surroundings. A mimic octopus is like a master of disguise. It can look like a lot of other animals. How does that relate to what we talked about today? Some counterfeit views of God can sound like the one true God, but they are false. There's only one true God. Where do we go to learn about the one true God? The Bible.

Pass out the maps and have everyone add today's sticker. Do not put names on them until the last day when they go home. It goes faster passing them out without names. Collect them when finished.



- ♦ Day 1 Animal Pal Poster
- Spy U Maps and Camo Stickers, 1 per child
- Timer
- Optional: Small prizes



Beat the Clock Review Game

Directions: Put 60 seconds on a timer. On “go,” ask a question and have everyone shout out an answer at the same time. As soon as you hear someone say the correct answer, acknowledge it and move to the next question. The goal is to get all 10 questions answered correctly before the 60 seconds are up. Remind kids to be quiet when you read the next question, or you will have to repeat it, which takes longer. You can play just for fun or give everyone a small prize, such as a sticker (available from AnswersVBS.com) or small, individually wrapped candy. To save time, give the prizes to the Truth Team Leaders who can pass them out later.

Review Questions

1. What is today's Bible verse? They recite 1 Kings 18:39.
2. Today's animal pal is what kind of animal? Mimic octopus.
3. What is his name and why? Camo. He's a master of disguise.
4. What do people study to become experts at identifying counterfeit (fake) money? Real money.
5. Who should we study to become experts at identifying counterfeit gods? The one true, real God.
6. Where do we find out about the one true God? The Bible.
7. How many right views of God are there and how many wrong views? One right view, four wrong views.
8. Who is the source of all wrong views of God? The deceiver, Satan.
9. Name one of the wrong views of God. No god, one false god, many gods, all is part of god.
10. From the Bible, what is something you know about the one true God? He alone is God, he is loving, kind, etc. End by saying the most amazing thing about him is that he's a personal God who loves you and wants to have a relationship with you.

Apply It!

In the remaining class time, complete one or more of the following ideas. These are also on the back of the Junior Student Guides and can be done at home with a parent or caretaker if you are out of time. If you send the guides home, motivate the kids to do them because they are full of good stuff! Have the Truth Team Leaders check with the kids tomorrow to see how they did on them, and consider giving contest bonus points to those who complete them.

Supplies for this section are not included in the supply list on the back cover. Decide what you will do and add to your list accordingly.

Part 1: Commit This to Memory

Today's Verse: And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God.” 1 Kings 18:39

If you have the Spy Training Manual, pass them out to each child now and have them decode/read today's verse. Show them the **DAY 1 MEMORY VERSE POSTER** and work on committing it to memory by saying it together a couple times or singing it with the memory verse song. After doing so, you may want to say: The one true God is the real deal. And the most amazing thing is he loves you! He wants to have a relationship with you. This is a good spot to give a brief gospel explanation—a more detailed explanation will be given on Day 3. Finish this section by doing the following challenge if time allows.

Challenge: Write each word of the verse on a separate index card. Mix the cards up. Time yourself and see how fast you can get the cards in the right order.

Tomorrow's Verse: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14

Say the new verse together several times and try the challenge again.

🌐 Gospel Opportunity

♦ Day 1 Memory Verse Poster

- ☐ Optional: Memory verse music and player
- ☐ Optional: Student Guides and supplies for Part 1 and Part 2
- ☐ Optional: Spy Training Manual, 1 per child

🌐 The front page of each day's Student Guide is a review of today's lesson. The back page matches these sections.



🌐 Gospel Opportunity

★ Download from AnswersVBS.com/spyresources.

♦ Find in your teacher kit.

Part 2: Go and Do

1. Go on a scavenger hunt through your house to find books and movies that feature a view of God. Does it show the one true God or false views of God (no god, one false god, many gods, all is part of god)?
2. As we saw in the Bible account about Elijah (1 Kings 18:20–39), God is powerful. He is the Creator of people and plants and animals and oceans and the sky! Take a walk with a grown-up and marvel at what our all-powerful Creator has made.
3. God is your powerful Creator, and he cares for you. Thank God for at least one way he shows his care for you. The one true God is good and is the giver of every good gift.
4. Check AnswersVBS.com/spyukids for more fun information!

Ask yourself this question: What practical steps can I take to learn more about the one true God (e.g., read my Bible, go to church, sing to God, pray)?