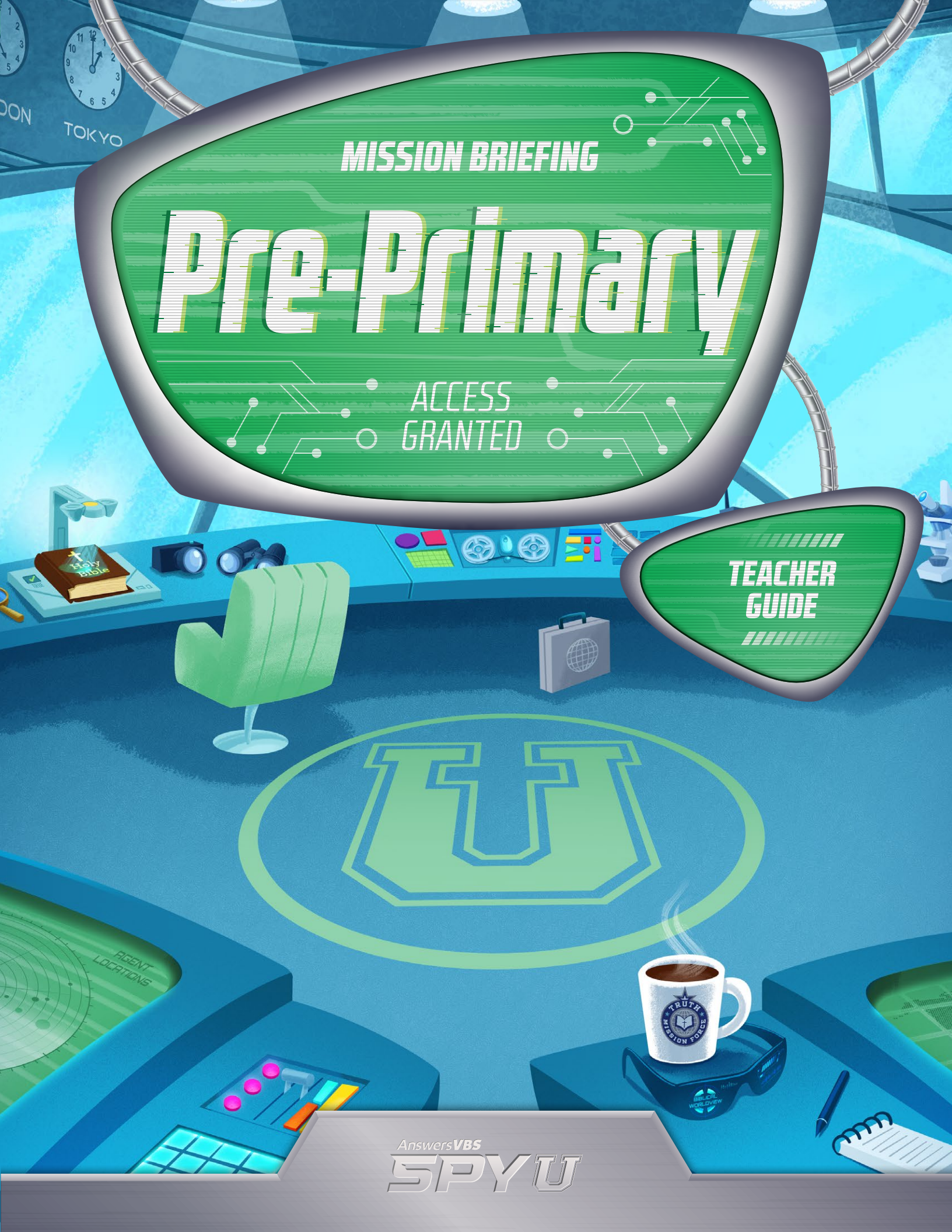




MISSION BRIEFING

Pre-Primary

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	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
Exploration Stations	Discovery Center	Only One	One-of-a-Kind Animal Fingerprints	Most Wanted Posters	Decode It!
	Wet Sensory Table	Elijah and the Prophets of Baal	Baptized in the Jordan	Sink or Float?	Pig Pile
	Dry Sensory Table	Fire on Mt. Carmel	Fingerprint It!	Rescue Mission	Secret Sand Messages
	Dramatic Play	Spy Time	Spy Time	Spy Time	Spy Time
	Coloring Corner	1 Kings 18:39	2 Corinthians 13:14	John 17:3	Psalm 145:8
Truth Sleuth Science	God Is There—Just like Air	A Unique God and a Unique Me	Clear Clues	Color-Coded Messages	God's Important Instructions
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 Binoculars	Love God Magnet I Spy Shaker
Fast Action Games	Silent Spy Power Playoff Gotcha!	Trinity Transfer Trinity Toss Play Dough Games	Sneaky Parachute Games Pass the Clues Relay Gospel Egg Hunt	Pig Pod Race Unique Moves Alpha Code	Hot or Cold Balloon Games Shadow Tag East to West
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
Cool Contests	Mystery M&M's	Secret Signals	Devise a Disguise	Code Cracking Bible Challenge	Mission Money Mania



Contents

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Pre-Primary Teacher Guide

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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/spyufaq.

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 Pre-Primary Teaching Tips

1. Pray and study God's Word. That is your most important preparation. God has entrusted you with the awesome privilege of opening his Word and sharing it daily with the children so be well prepared. Acts 6:4—"We will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."
2. Read through all your lesson plans well in advance and become familiar with the resources at AnswersVBS.com/spyresources. 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. Modify the Exploration Stations as your situation warrants. Use as suggested or incorporate one or more ideas into the lesson time to do with the whole group together.
7. Ask Truth Team Leaders to help man the Exploration Stations each day. Post the directions and teaching tie-ins at each station every day as an easy reference for your helpers.
8. A puppet is used daily at some point during the lesson. It may also be used to welcome the children, sing a song, or review a memory verse. The puppet can come up from a puppet area if there are two of you to do the puppet skit. If working alone, the puppet can come up from behind a suitcase with the lid flipped up.
9. Attend the Teacher Workshop and the Gospel Workshop. Be prepared to share the good news of salvation!
10. 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. Take on a persona to bring lessons to life. Some teachers enjoy making up a fun name, adopting an accent, or adding something new to their "costume" each day, such as small stuffed animal pals added to pockets of a vest. Teach in a way that makes you feel comfortable.
11. Think safety. Read the [Child Safety Precautions](http://AnswersVBS.com/spyresources) file at AnswersVBS.com/spyresources for more information.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Call the children by name as you interact with them. Name tags help with this.
15. 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. Be aware of your church's appropriate touching policies.
16. 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.
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 generally rise to the level expected of them, so challenge them to work on memory verses and complete their take-home student guides.
19. Use brown lunch bags labeled with the child's name to send everything home each day.
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 general characteristics of children and then specific characteristics of Pre-Primaries (ages 4–6).

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 God.

Characteristics of Pre-Primaries

Physical Characteristics

Pre-Primaries are active and becoming confident in physical activities like jumping, hopping on one foot, and walking backward. They love to be moving. They're improving in hand-eye coordination. They're rapidly growing and may need rest after active play.

Takeaways for Us

Pre-Primaries like to play hard, so keep them moving with short, simple games and activities. They may need to sit and rest for a brief time afterward.

Emotional/Social Characteristics

Pre-Primaries are less fearful than Toddlers but still often exhibit common fears, such as fear of dogs and the dark. They can have emotional extremes and are testing others to see who can be controlled. They want to please adults and want praise. They will often mimic adults' behaviors.

They like imaginative play. Pre-Primaries can handle small tasks and responsibilities.

Takeaways for Us

- Let them be helpers. Give them simple jobs to do and have them help pick up things and straighten the room at the end of the lesson. Let them know they've done a good job.
- Give them opportunities to dress-up and play imaginatively.
- Be consistent in discipline. Let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no."
- Be careful to walk worthy—act and speak in godly ways. Little eyes are watching and will want to imitate you!

Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

Pre-Primaries talk a lot and ask a lot of questions, including questions about God. They understand that sin is disobeying God's commands. They need a lot of guidance in tasks but can also follow a simple series of directions. They have an attention span of approximately five minutes. They enjoy doing new things, hearing stories and songs, and they can do basic memory work. They're not always able to tell the difference between reality and fantasy. They're developing attitudes toward right and wrong.

Takeaways for Us

- In downtime, give them time to ask questions. Be ready to patiently answer. But while you are teaching, be careful you don't get so wrapped up in letting them talk that the lesson doesn't happen!
- Vary activities often. The longer an activity goes, the more wiggly children become!
- When engaged in pretend activities, name them as such (e.g., "Let's pretend to be spies!"). At the same time, point out often that God's Word is not pretend but true.
- Repetition of songs and stories works well, and Pre-Primaries enjoy it.
- Sing the memory verse songs with them. They will be able to learn at least parts of the verses by the end of the week.
- Use visuals.
- Teach them about sin and asking God for forgiveness.
- Show interest in each child, letting them know you care.
- Be careful to speak accurately and truthfully.
- Show care and respect for your Bible and help them see your love for it and for the Lord.

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 two segments: Exploration Stations (15–20 minutes) and Lesson Time (15–20 minutes). You can either keep your group together for the stations and lesson or divide the group in two, with each half switching places after 15–20 minutes.

If Exploration Stations aren't possible, simply choose one or more of the station activities to incorporate into your lesson time as a group activity rather than having a separate area for them.

Exploration Station Time

There are five stations to choose from: Discovery Center, Wet Sensory Table, Dry Sensory Table, Dramatic Play, and Coloring Corner. These stations can be in an adjoining room or in the same room as the lesson time. If both the stations and the lesson time are in the same room, set them up in opposite ends of the room. Post the station signs at each station and leave copies of the directions and teaching tie-ins for Truth Team Leaders to reinforce.

When the children enter the stations area, you may want to have them first sit while you briefly explain each station and teaching tie-in. Then the children may rotate in small groups through each station every few minutes, or they may independently move from one to another, which is what our test churches do. The children don't need to do every station each day, although the coloring page should be sent home daily—colored or uncolored.

See the Exploration Stations supply list on the back cover for supplies needed each day. For the Sensory Tables, use small wading pools or large, clear, under-the-bed storage containers partially filled with water or other materials. Place them on a plastic tarp or tablecloth to catch the spills.

Check the Decorating Decisions section for more specifics on setting up the Dramatic Play area to look like a spy safe house with a brick wall backdrop and lots of spy-themed gadgets. Set up the Coloring Corner to look like a hideout.

Lesson Time

The lesson time is divided into three sections:

Introduce It! (5 minutes or less): This is a time to begin the lesson in an interesting way.

Teach It! (10–15 minutes): This deepens the lesson, with costumed teachers sharing the Bible account and apologetics information.

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

Ideas are given within the lessons to adapt the activities to your time period. There are many possibilities. 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 format also works if teaching alone. If team teaching, decide ahead of time who will teach what. If teaching alone, either find someone to help with the daily puppet script or work the puppet yourself, using a suitcase with the lid flipped up. Have the puppet appear from behind the lid. Shortened (20 minute), [one-person lessons](#) (without Exploration Stations or a puppet) are available to download from Resources > Teaching > All Ages.

Check the Decorating Decisions section for more specifics on decorating the lesson room.

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). Both are available with the Music Leader Download, which comes with the purchase of a Super Starter Kit. They feature the full verses. (Pre-Prima-ries and Toddlers are taught condensed versions of these

verses.) 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). Songs are also available to stream—see AnswersVBS.com/streaming.

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.

Sample Schedule

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.

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)		

Student Extras

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

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

Simple Songs: The songs referenced throughout this guide that are for Pre-Primaries and Toddlers may be streamed on your personal device from AnswersVBS.com/streaming. They are also available on a separate Simple Songs for Kids CD (1241410). You may want to purchase a CD for each child.

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 with the children to be completed with a parent or caretaker. This is what our test churches do. If you send the student 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 check with the kids to see how they did and make a big deal about their hard work. The student guides are available in packs of 10.

- Pre-Primary ESV (1240730)
- Pre-Primary KJV (1241340)

Spy Training Manual: These fun, interactive booklets feature the daily memory verses, along with a place to stamp (1240930) attendance. Check with your VBS director to find out when to give these to the kids. They can receive them at any time during the first day. You can use them during the memory verse time, or Truth Team Leaders can go over them during snack time. These are available in packs of 10.

- Pre-Primary/Toddler ESV (1240900)
- Pre-Primary/Toddler KJV (1241380)

Spy U Map and Stickers: Use these sticker sets as a fun review of each day.

- Pack of 10 maps (1240780)

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

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

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

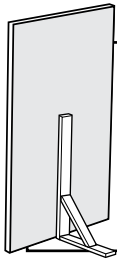
Classroom Set

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 Resource Download for numerous clip art images. Use a projector to enlarge and transfer the images onto roll paper, poster board, 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.

Puppet Stage

Because puppets are used daily in the Primary, Pre-Primary, and Toddler classrooms, you will need a puppet door. Somewhere on your backdrop, cut a small door that will open and close and cover the back of the hole with fabric. Or if you don't have a freestanding backdrop, you can make a puppet stage from a large cardboard box or trifold display board. Simply cut out a rectangular hole in the box or display board, cover the back of the hole with fabric, and then paint or decorate the outside.

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!

Exploration Stations

Pre-Primary classes enjoy Exploration Stations, which include a discovery center, two sensory tables, a dramatic play area, and a coloring corner. Further information about these stations can be found in each lesson, but check below for details on setting up the dramatic play area and the coloring corner.

Spy Time Dress-Up

Your Spy Time dress-up area should resemble the inside of a spy safe house. First, designate a corner of your room, then cover the walls with a brick wall scene setter or paper. Make a Who's Who? chart to place on the wall. Add yellow caution tape or red yarn "laser beams" to the walls. On another wall, make a blind by accordion-folding a large sheet of construction paper and adding a ribbon to the bottom to be the pretend "pull." In the center of the space, add a child's table and chairs with tech-type stuff, like old computer keyboards, cell phones, and remote controls. Other possible items to place around the area include play magnifying glasses, passports, play money, clipboards, play cameras, binoculars, papers, and file folders. Place dress-up clothes in a box and mark them with the "Top Secret" or "Confidential" Patterns. Finish the room with other items, such as backpacks, briefcases, and play suitcases with travel stickers on them.



Hideout Coloring Corner

In another corner of your room, fashion a hideout space using a pop-up tent or a super sturdy table against the wall that they can safely get under. If a table, spread a large tablecloth or sheet over it so it drapes to the floor. For a door, pull back an edge of the tablecloth/sheet and fasten it open with a large binder clip. Inside the hideout, cover the floor with a blanket and place daily [Memory Verse Coloring Sheets](#) along with coloring and decorating supplies.

Additional Exploration Station Ideas

- ❑ **X Marks the Reading Spot**—Make a cozy reading spot with an X on the floor. Place a basket nearby with a variety of children's books, including children's picture Bibles and books about the one true God.
- ❑ **Art Agents**—Have assorted art supplies available for children to use for making their own creations. Suggested materials include paper, markers, ribbon, pom-poms, craft sticks, recycled small boxes, paper towel tubes, and plastic containers. Suggest making pretend spy gadgets—watches, binoculars, cell phones, etc.
- ❑ **Examine the Evidence**—Set this up as a science/nature center where the cadets can carefully observe various items. Powers of observation are important for cadets in training.
- ❑ **Planes, Trains, and Automobiles**—Set up some mini spy-like cars and play tracks. Add in play helicopters, trains, police cars, and other mini play vehicles for fun chases.
- ❑ **Flannel Board Fun**—Provide a flannel board with people and items from each day's Bible lesson.
- ❑ **Texture Trays**—Provide various textures for kids to trace words or pictures with their fingers. Use key words of Bible concepts they're learning about. Possible textures include shaving cream or hair gel in zippered baggies (duct-taped shut), burlap, trays of salt, thick fleece, magic slates, or chalkboard and chalk. Supervise carefully and make sure they know not to put their hands in their mouths. You may want to put out different textures on different days. Provide wipes for cleanup.
- ❑ **Play Dough**—Play dough is always a favorite, so feature a station with it all week, adding thematic supplies (e.g., cookie cutters and plastic toys) that have to do with the day's teaching: Day 1 (only one God) #1 and cross cookie cutters; Day 2 (the Trinity) triangle cookie cutters; Day 3 (the gospel) fruit and snake cookie cutters; Day 4 (prodigal son) pigs and people cookie cutters; Day 5 (loving God with all your heart) heart-shaped cookie cutters.

PLAY DOUGH RECIPE

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| ❑ 2 c. flour | ❑ 2 t. oil |
| ❑ ½ c. salt | ❑ Food coloring |
| ❑ 2 c. warm water | ❑ Optional: glitter |
| ❑ 4 t. cream of tartar | |

Mix the first five ingredients in a saucepan. After blended, mix in food coloring. Stir over low to medium heat until the dough is formed and is no longer sticky. Remove from the pan and knead until smooth, adding the glitter if desired. After it has cooled, store in an airtight container.

- 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 one and only true God. Today, we'll uncover counterfeit gods and discover the God of the Bible.

APOLOGETICS CONTENT

There is only one true God. All others are counterfeits.

COMMIT THIS TO MEMORY

"The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God."
1 Kings 18:39

DAILY CIPHER

1 True God

ANIMAL PAL

Camo the Mimic Octopus

Today's Exploration Stations

- Discovery Center: Only One
- Wet Sensory Table: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
- Dry Sensory Table: Fire on Mt. Carmel
- Dramatic Play: Spy Time
- Coloring Corner: 1 Kings 18:39

Today's Lesson at a Glance

INTRODUCE IT!

- Operation One True God

TEACH IT!

- Part 1: Finding Fakes
- Part 2: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
- Part 3: Puppet Pal—Spy Disguise
- Part 4: Animal Pal Review

APPLY IT!

- Part 1: Commit This to Memory
- Part 2: Go and Do
- Song 1: "My God Is So Great"
- Song 2: "Our God Is Big"

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.

Exploration Stations

See page 12 for setup and decorating instructions for each station, as well as ideas for additional stations.

Discovery Center: Only One

MATERIALS

- ☐ Bin with a filler such as beads, dry beans, or rice
- ☐ Various small objects in different colors (e.g., fun foam hearts, toy spy-like cars, dark sunglasses, a watch, small magnifying glasses, paper clips, crayons, an old cell phone)
- ☐ Numeral 1 written in red or on red copy paper (laminated, if possible)

PREP

Place the paper with the numeral 1 in the bottom of the bin. Put the filler on top and mix in the objects so they are hidden. Note: You can have more than one of certain objects, but each should be a different color.

DIRECTIONS

Call out each hidden object and let the children look for them. Line the objects up as they find them. Finally, ask the cadets to find the red numeral 1. Share the teaching tie-in.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Spies sometimes need to find something that's hidden. You have been finding each item, and now you even found the number 1. Today, we're talking about how there is just *one* true God. Let's put up one finger and say, "One True God!" together.

Wet Sensory Table: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

For sensory tables use an under-the-bed storage container, small wading pool, or "official" sensory table.

MATERIALS

- ☐ Sensory table with tarp underneath
- ☐ Bucket of water
- ☐ Small plastic cups
- ☐ Plastic Lincoln logs or Duplo blocks, two small plastic bulls, plastic little people

PREP

Start with the sensory table dry and empty. Set supplies nearby.

DIRECTIONS

Help the children reenact the account of Elijah and the prophets of Baal found in 1 Kings 18:20–39. Talk them through it step-by-step, as they place the logs/blocks, bulls, and plastic people into the sensory table. They can pour the water in at the right time. End with the teaching tie-in.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Elijah showed everyone that what they thought was a god wasn't really a god at all. It was a fake. Elijah's God is the only true God. We learn about him in the Bible. He's a good, powerful, loving God.

Dry Sensory Table: Fire on Mt. Carmel

MATERIALS

- ☐ Sensory table with tarp underneath
- ☐ Crumpled up red, orange, and/or yellow tissue paper

PREP

Start with the sensory table empty. Place the crumpled up tissue paper in clumps around the area.

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then have the children find the tissue paper and bring it to the sensory table to make a pretend fire—big or little. If time, they can re-hide the tissue paper and play again.

TEACHING TIE-IN

When Elijah was showing the prophets of Baal that there's only one God, he asked God to send fire from heaven. And God did! He sent a fire that burned up all the wood and the offering. God showed he can do anything because he is the only God.

Dramatic Play: Spy Time

MATERIALS

This station can be as simple or elaborate as you like. Leave it set up all week. Choose from the following or add your own ideas. Make sure all items are safe and not choking hazards for young children.

- ☐ Brick wall backdrop and decorating ideas as listed in Decorating Decisions
- ☐ Child-safe props (e.g., magnifying glasses, steno pads, old cell phones/telephones, play laptops or old computer keyboards, clipboards, play cameras, play suitcases or briefcases [or old lunch boxes spray-painted silver or black])
- ☐ Spy dress-up items (e.g., small trench coats or children's dark sport coats, dark sunglasses, black ball caps or hats, international clothing and hats, binoculars, watches, passports, other spy-like clothes and gear)
- ☐ Black suitcase or copy paper box with the words "Top Secret" or "Confidential" stamped or stuck on—for storing costumes
- ☐ Small table for spy supplies ("base")

PREP

Set up the area to look like a spy safe house. The costumes can be borrowed, made, or bought from thrift stores or garage sales. Put the costumes in the suitcase or cardboard box. Put the supplies on the small table.

You may want to put travel stickers on the suitcases, briefcases, or cardboard boxes. Also, you may want to put out only part of the supplies today, adding new ones each day. The kids enjoy discovering new things daily.

DIRECTIONS

Share the teaching tie-in, then the kids will dress up and pretend to be cadets at Spy U.

TEACHING TIE-IN

We're cadets here at Spy University, also known as Spy U. We have some things here to help us learn how to be good agents. But the most important thing to learn is that there's only one God, and we learn about him in the Bible. The Bible is the most important book in the world! It's the only book that is perfect, and that's because it's written by God!

Coloring Corner: 1 Kings 18:39

MATERIALS

- ☐ [Day 1 Memory Verse Coloring Sheet](#)
- ☐ Hideout decorating supplies as listed in Decorating Decisions
- ☐ Markers or crayons in a small, solid-colored lunch box with travel stickers on it
- ☐ Optional supplies: Glue sticks, stickers, and items to glue onto the coloring sheet (e.g., cotton balls, pom-poms, sandpaper, tissue paper)

PREP

Set up the hideout decorations. Print the **DAY 1 MEMORY VERSE COLORING SHEET**, 1 per child. Gather the optional supplies and set them out to use all week.

DIRECTIONS

Color the sheet. Add additional supplies if desired.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Practice saying the memory verse on the sheet. Discuss its meaning.

◆ Theme Memory Verse Poster

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

🌐 Download [these items](#) from [AnswersVBS.com/spyuresources](#) (Resources > Teaching > Pre-Primary).

🌐 Think of 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 daily in the supply list but is used throughout. Mounting putty (aka sticky tack) is also listed just once for hanging posters.



- ❑ Fake and real coins, at least one per child

Introduce It!

Operation One True God (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/spyuresources](#) > Resources > Teacher > All Ages; also available for purchase). The teaching posters are also available as slides.

Prep: Prepare your set backdrop and costumes. Bookmark all the Scripture verses used in today's lesson. Put your Bible in the briefcase. Make up motions for the theme memory verse.

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. Good to see that you've arrived safely at Spy University, also known as Spy U. I'm Agent _____. This is our worldwide base with people here from all over the world.

Teacher 2: I'm Agent _____. We're members of the Truth Mission Force, a specially trained squad of Christians living all over the world. We find fake gods and teach people about the one true God, who is the treasure of the world.

Teacher 1: We have a theme verse from the Bible we need to commit to memory. Take your Bible out of your briefcase and read Psalm 86:10. Let's stand and learn that now as your first assignment. Do so, making up motions and pointing it out on the **THEME MEMORY VERSE POSTER**.

Teacher 2: You are starting out as cadets, but by the end of the week, you will graduate from Spy U and be Junior Agents.

Teacher 1: The case you're being assigned to is called "Operation One True God." Every day, you'll have a mission briefing right here to learn more. In today's briefing, we'll learn to find fakes. Let's put on our pretend spy gear and begin.

Teacher 2: Pretend with the kids to put on items such as a spy watch, a hat, sunglasses, a backpack, and earpiece. Then put a finger on your ear and speak into your watch to Teacher 1. "Are you ready, Agent_____?"

Teacher 1: Teacher one does the same motions and replies: "Affirmative."

Teacher 2: Speaking into wristwatch, "10-4."

Teach It!

Part 1: Finding Fakes (5 minutes)

Prep: Hide fake and real coins around the room.

Teacher 1: Any member of the Truth Mission Force must be able to find fakes. To train you to do so, we're going to go on a little hunt. There are pieces of money hidden around this briefing room. Each person needs to find one, just one, and then come back and sit down. Ready? 3-2-1, go!

Give them a short time to each pick up one coin. Once back in their seats, have the children look at their money. Ask if they think it's real money or fake (not real). Look at each other's real and fake coins and compare how they look and feel.

Teacher 2: Special agents need to know what real money looks like. Fake money won't do them any good. Special agents also need to know what the one true God is like so they won't be fooled by fake gods.

Either have the kids re-hide the money where they found it or you can quickly re-hide it before the next group arrives. If they re-hide it, make a big deal about them getting it hidden quickly while you turn around and count to 10.

★ Download from [AnswersVBS.com/spyuresources](#).

◆ Find in your teacher kit.

Part 2: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal (5 minutes)

Prep: Cut apart the posters. Lay out the supplies as follows to use as you tell the account. Put the 9 x 13 pan on a table where the children can gather around. Place a bowl upside down in the middle of it for the mountain. It should have a little height and be flat-bottomed (e.g., flat-bottomed stainless steel mixing bowl). Place the other supplies near the pan: craft sticks, plastic bulls, pitcher of water, oven mitt, box lid, and pony beads. Fold the **DAY 1 CIPHER POSTER** so the answer isn't showing.

Teacher 1: Just like we talked about fake money, there are also fake gods. Today, you're going to hear an account from God's special, true book called the Bible about some people who believed in fake gods. These were not real because there's only one true God. Hold your pointer finger up with me and say, "One God!" [Do so](#).

Teacher 2: People sometimes start worshipping all kinds of things, like trees and cows and statues. But the Bible tells us there is only one person to worship—the one true God. [Open your Bible to 1 Kings 18](#). Let's gather around this table and listen to more from God's Word. [Do so if you have a small enough group, otherwise, just have them stay put](#).

Teacher 1: Long ago, there was a man of God (a prophet) named Elijah. Say, "Elijah" with me. [Do so](#). The Lord told Elijah to go and visit a king named Ahab. Say, "Ahab" with me. [Do so](#).

Teacher 2: Ahab was a wicked king. Make a mean face. [Do so](#). He believed in a fake god named Baal (pronounced "Bail") instead of the one true God of the Bible. So God gave Elijah an important message for the king. Elijah told Ahab he had sinned (done wrong) because he worshipped the fake god Baal.

Teacher 1: Ahab didn't listen, so Elijah challenged him to a contest. "Tell the people of Israel," he said, "to meet at the mountain called Mount Carmel." Let's pretend this bowl is Mount Carmel. [Point to the bowl](#).

Teacher 2: Elijah told Ahab to bring all the men (called prophets) who worshipped the false god named Baal. There were a lot of them—450! Let's pretend these beads are the 450 men. [Scatter a bunch of beads in the pan at the base of the bowl](#).

Teacher 1: Now remember, this was a contest. On one side, were the 450 prophets who worshipped Baal. Guess how many people were going to go against all these men? Just one—Elijah! It was going to be Elijah, all by himself, against the prophets of Baal—all 450 of them!

Teacher 2: So the men who were prophets of the fake god Baal came to Mount Carmel for the contest. The prophets were going to go first. Elijah told them to put a big animal called a bull on a pile of wood. [Put 5–6 of the craft sticks on top of the bowl and put the bull on top of that](#).

Teacher 1: Normally, when people back then put an animal on a pile of wood, they would start a fire with the wood and burn it up. But Elijah told them not to start a fire. Instead, they were supposed to call on their god Baal to start the fire. So they all called out to their fake god to send fire to burn up the bull. They called on Baal for hours! Do you think their fake god sent fire? No! Nothing happened because fake gods aren't real. They don't exist, so they can't do anything.

Teacher 2: But the prophets kept trying. They shouted even louder and danced around. They kept this up all day, until it was evening, but no one answered them and nothing happened.

Teacher 1: Then it was Elijah's turn. Let's take away all the prophets of Baal and put just Elijah in. [Take the bowl out, empty the pan into the box lid, then put the bowl back in the pan](#). Put just one bead in the pan to represent Elijah. [Elijah built an altar out of stones on the mountain and put his bull on it](#). [Do so with the other craft sticks and the other bull on top of the upside-down bowl](#). Then he did something surprising. He dug a ditch all around the wood and poured water all over the bull—not one time, not two times, but three times! Let's count to three. [Gently pour water over the sticks, then around the base of the bowl three times](#). There was so much water, it filled the ditch and got everything wet.

- ♦ **Elijah Poster**
- ♦ **Day 1 Cipher Poster**
- 9 x 13 pan
- 1 bowl (see Prep)
- 1 box lid larger than 9 x 13
- 10–12 craft sticks
- 2 small plastic bulls or pictures of bulls (laminated)
- Pitcher of water
- Oven mitt (red/orange if possible)
- Lots of pony beads (any colors)



 Gospel Opportunity



♦ False Gods Poster

★ Day 1 Puppet Script
(2 copies)

- ☐ Boy or girl puppet in costume and puppet stage
- ☐ Clipboard
- ☐ Disguise for puppet (see Prep)

 The puppet can be dressed in a small black T-shirt or a VBS T-shirt. Print, cut out, and laminate a color copy of the VBS logo and tape it to a baby-size T-shirt.

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

Teacher 2: When someone builds a fire, do they soak it with water first? No! But that's what Elijah did. The water completely filled the ditch and was running all over the place.

Teacher 1: Why do you think he did that? [Take responses](#). He was trying to show how powerful the one true God really is. He wanted everyone to see that not only could his God—the true God—burn up the bull, but his God could even burn up the bull if it was soaking wet!

Teacher 2: Do you think God did it? Let's keep going to find out! Elijah stood in front of everyone and said, "God, I've done what you asked me. Now show these people that you are the one true God."

Teacher 1: Guess what happened? Tell them to imagine the oven mitt is fire from heaven and use it to grab the bull from above as you say the following. God sent fire down, and it burned up that soaking wet bull, the soaking wet wood, the wet stones of the altar, and even the wet ground! It also licked up all the water in the ditch! [Show the ELIJAH POSTER](#). Let's cheer for God! [Do so](#).

Teacher 2: When the people of Israel saw this, they fell down and cried out, "The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!" Let's say that together. [Do so](#).

Teacher 1: The 450 prophets could see that their god Baal was a fake. He wasn't a god at all! There is only one true God in the whole wide world, just as God's one true book, the Bible, tells us. Isn't that great to know? And did you know that the one true God is loving? It's true! He loves you so much and wants you to be part of his family. [Teacher 2 can get behind the puppet stage as Teacher 1 finishes out this section.](#)

Teacher 1: Now, cadets, let's see if we can figure out this secret message as a special reminder of what we just talked about. [Show the DAY 1 CIPHER POSTER](#). Help the children decode the top part, then fold down the answer. Remind them there is only one true God.

This can be a good time to sing one of the songs found at the end of today's lesson.

Part 3: Puppet Pal—Spy Disguise (3 minutes)

Prep: Tape one **PUPPET SCRIPT** inside the puppet stage and attach the other to a clipboard for reference. Dress the puppet in either a VBS T-shirt (see sidebar Teaching Tip) or some other spy gear, such as a plain black T-shirt. Have an item to use as disguise, such as a hat or a pair of dark sunglasses.

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

Decide which teacher will be the puppet and figure out when you need to leave the previous teaching so you will be positioned in time for the start of the puppet pal time. It is assumed that Teacher 2 will be the puppet, but adjust lines above as necessary if not.

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

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

When the puppet is entering, hold your arm back and down and have the puppet take three steps up, getting higher each time, until the puppet is out and visible. When exiting, turn the puppet toward you and take three steps down until out of sight.

Teacher: Our puppet's name is Charlie. Let's all call for him (her) now. Do so.

Puppet: Come up with a disguise on, looking furtively around.

Teacher: Hey, what's going on? Who are you?

Puppet: Say in a whisper: I'm your friend Charlie, but . . . (look around again) my code name is Agent Lookout.

Teacher: Oh, hi there, Agent Lookout. Are you on the lookout for bad guys?

Puppet: I am! I even need to wear a disguise sometimes. It's good to be a master of disguise if you're learning to be a spy, you know. How do you like it?

Teacher: Your disguise is great. And I agree it's good to be on the lookout for bad guys. But there's something even more important to be on the lookout for.

Puppet: What's that?

Teacher: Fake gods, also known as false gods.

Puppet: Fake gods? But there's only one true God, right?

Teacher: Right! He's the Creator of the universe (Genesis 1:1) and the Creator of you (Psalm 139)! But some people make up fake gods. They seem a lot like the real, one true God, but they aren't. They're just make-believe.

Puppet: How do we know what the real true God is like?

Teacher: We learn about him in the Bible. But you would be surprised how many people believe in other gods.

Puppet: Are there other gods?

Teacher: Nope! As we said, there's only one true God. But people sometimes start worshipping other gods rather than the God of the Bible. These false gods may be people or things.

Puppet: What do they look like?

Teacher: Well, they can look like many different things, depending on who made them up. Hold up the FALSE GODS POSTER and point to each one as you mention it. Here are some examples. The Greeks made up gods with names like Zeus and Poseidon. But people didn't even believe they were perfect and good.

Puppet: The one true God is perfect and good. I know that from the Bible! But what about that picture of animals?

Teacher: Well, some people worship animals. Point to the poster. But animals aren't gods. They're created by the one true God, but they themselves aren't gods. And neither are other things in nature, like the sun or the stars.

Puppet: What about that statue? Is that a god?

Teacher: Point to the poster. Nope! Statues can't be gods. They aren't even alive. They're just made of stone or wood. A statue may look like a god, but no person is a god. Only God is God!

Puppet: What about those buildings?

Teacher: Point to the poster. Those are called temples and pyramids. There are lots of them around the world. People built them as houses for fake gods. But none of them has to do with the true God. The only true God is the one we learn about in the Bible.

Puppet: I need to learn my Bible well so I know about the one true God and won't be fooled by false gods.

Teacher: That's for sure, Agent Lookout. You might want to start reading the Bible now and see what you can find out, then we'll see you tomorrow.



◆ Day 1 Animal Pal Poster

- Spy U Maps and Camo Stickers, 1 per child



Children will add one animal pal sticker per day. If you have a large group, don't put names on them—this saves time passing them out each day. Collect them each time until the last day when they take them home.

◆ Theme and Day 1 Memory Verse Posters

- Optional: Student Guides and supplies
- Optional: Memory verse music and player
- Optional: Spy Training Manual

The front page of each day's student guide is an overview of today's lesson. The back page matches these sections.



Part 4: Animal Pal Review (5 minutes or less)

Take a couple minutes to summarize the lesson today using the **DAY 1 ANIMAL PAL POSTER** and any or all of the questions below. Pass out the Spy U Maps and Camo Stickers (available to purchase from AnswersVBS.com—1240780), one set per child.

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. What kind of animal is our pal? **Mimic octopus**. And what's our mimic octopus' name? **Camo**—short for **camouflage**. Do you know what camouflage means? Camouflage means you can blend in so you aren't noticed easily. Camo the octopus is a master of disguise. Camo can look like other animals. That reminds us that sometimes people worship false gods, which can seem like the real God but are fakes. There's only one true God.

Continue reviewing with the following questions. Be sure to give the correct answer for any "no" questions. Have the kids do a floppy wave of their arms like a mimic octopus if the answer is yes and stay very still if it is no.

1. **Yes or no: Does fake money work just like real money?** No—stay still. Things that are fake (false) are not the same as real things.
2. **Yes or no: Can Camo the octopus fake it and look like other animals?** Yes—wave arms. He can fake looking like other animals, just like false gods can fake looking like the one true God.
3. **Yes or no: Is there only one real God?** Yes—wave arms. There's one real God but lots of fakes who can sometimes look like the real thing.
4. **Yes or no: Do some people worship animals or the sun instead of the real God?** Yes—wave arms. These things are not gods. The real God made them.
5. **Yes or no: Is the one true God named Poseidon?** No—stay still. Poseidon is a fake god someone made up. He isn't real.
6. **Yes or no: Can we learn about the one true God in the Bible?** Yes—wave arms. The Bible is the best place to go to find out what the one true God is really like.

Apply It!

In the remaining time, complete one or more of the following activities in class. These are also on the Pre-Primary Student Guides and can be done at home with a parent or caretaker. If you send the guides home, motivate the kids to do them because they are full of good stuff!

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: The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God. 1 Kings 18:39

Practice the verse several times using the **DAY 1 MEMORY VERSE POSTER** as a reference and playing the song from the memory verse music if you have it.

Challenge: Move like a mimic octopus by waving your arms as you say the verse.

Tomorrow's Verse: Jesus Christ . . . God . . . Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14

Try the challenge again, this time with tomorrow's verse. You may also want to practice the week's theme verse, using the **THEME MEMORY VERSE POSTER** as a reference.

Part 2: Go and Do

1. Have a grown-up read a make-believe story to you. Then read something true from the Bible. (True accounts about Jesus' time on earth are in the first four books of the New Testament.) Everything in the Bible is true, not make-believe.
2. As we saw with the Elijah account (1 Kings 18), God is powerful. He is the Creator of people and plants and animals and oceans and sky! Go on a walk with a grown-up and find some things our 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. Ask a grown-up to help you check AnswersVBS.com/spyukids for more fun information!

Ask yourself this question: Do I want to believe in a fake god that isn't real or the one true God who loves me?

Song 1: My God Is So Great

CHORUS

My God is so great, so strong, and so
mighty (Flex arm muscles.)
There's nothing my God cannot do
(Shake head and hands "no.")
My God is so great, so strong, and so
mighty (Flex arm muscles.)
There's nothing my God cannot do
(Shake head and hands "no.")
The oceans are his
(Make ocean waves with hands.)

The mountains are his
(Make mountain peaks with arms.)
The stars are his handiwork too
(Sway arms back and forth over head.)
My God is so great, so strong, and so
mighty (Flex arm muscles.)
There's nothing my God cannot do—for
you (Shake head and hands "no," then
point out to the kids.)
Repeat

- ★ "My God Is So Great" song
- ★ "Our God Is Big" song
- ☐ Stream the songs or use the Simple Songs for Kids CD
- ☐ Device to play songs

Song 2: Our God Is Big

Sing to the tune of "Right In, Right Out."

CHORUS

Our God is big, he's great, he's good (Open
arms wide on "big," pump them over
head two times on "great" and "good.")
He's caring all the time
(Cross arms over chest and pulse them
three times, on "car-," "all," and "time.")
Our God is big, he's great, he's good (Open
arms wide, pump them over head twice.)

He's caring all the time (Cross arms over
chest and pulse them three times.)
He is the only God. The only one that's
true. (Put up one index finger and sway
it back and forth.)
Our God is big, he's great, he's good (Open
arms wide, pump them over head twice.)
He's caring all the time (Cross arms over
chest and pulse them three times.)
Repeat