



MISSION BRIEFING

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 145:8–9	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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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 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 Primaries (ages 6–9 years).

Characteristics of Children

Children have some common characteristics.

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

Physical Characteristics

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

Takeaways for Us

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

Emotional/Social Characteristics

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

Takeaways for Us

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

Spiritual/Mental Characteristics

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

Takeaways for Us

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

Special Needs

The *Special Needs Teacher Supplement* (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

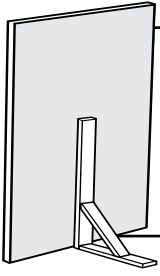
Classroom Set

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 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 (½-inch) black border to your painted props. This helps them stand out better and makes the colors appear more vibrant.
- Because corrugated cardboard tends to curl when only one side is painted, first apply a quick single coat of paint to the back.

Puppet Stage

Because puppets are used daily in the Primary 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 tri-fold display board. Simply cut out a rectangular hole in the box or display board, cover 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!

- 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** **MI5**—the United Kingdom’s intelligence agency that covers domestic affairs
MI6—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



Day 1

Uncovering Counterfeits

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: Puppet Pal—Test 3: Counterfeit Gods
Part 3: Views of God
Option 1: For Younger Primaries
Option 2: For Older Primaries
Part 4: 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/spyufaq.
- 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/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 the Scripture passages in your Bible used in today's lesson. Put the Bible in the briefcase.

As the cadets come in, you may want to come out from somewhere using walkie-talkies and signing off of 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. This is our international base where 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're 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 all over 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 we need 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 all over the world. Take the Bible out of the briefcase, open to the premarked spot, and read Psalm 86:10. Let's stand and say that now as your first assignment. Refer to the **THEME MEMORY VERSE POSTER** to teach the verse. Emphasize the "You alone are God" part.

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

Teacher 1: The case you're being assigned to is called Operation One True God. This case is important for every person all over the world. Each day, you'll have a mission briefing here at HQ to learn more.

Teacher 2: Today's mission briefing is on learning to uncover fakes, or counterfeits. Let's put on our spy gear and begin. Pretend to put on spy gear, like sunglasses or backpacks.

Teach It!

Part 1: Uncovering Counterfeits Tests (10 minutes)

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 make a slide of it.

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 on the lookout so he can detect fakes. You will now be given a couple tests to train you to be on the lookout.

Test 1: Do You See What I See?

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

"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."

Please be honest about your answers. God is truth ([John 14:6](#)), and he wants Truth Mission Force cadets to be honest and true too. 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.

♦ 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

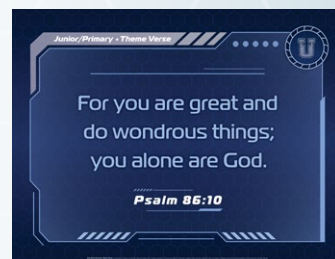
🌐 Download [these items](#) from AnswersVBS.com/spyuresources (Resources – Teaching – Primary).

🌐 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 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.

★ Download from AnswersVBS.com/spyuresources.

♦ Find in your teacher kit.

- ❑ 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.
- 🌐 Shorten this section if needed. Or if you have plenty of time, hide the real and fake bills ahead of time and start this section by letting each child find one to look at and feel before going into details.

♦ **Elijah Poster**

★ **Day 1 Puppet Script**,
2 copies

★ **1 Kings 18 Drawing Sheet**,
1 per child

- ❑ Clipboards or hard surface to write on, 1 per child
- ❑ Boy or girl puppet in disguise (see Prep) and puppet stage
- ❑ Clipboard for teacher
- ❑ Pens/markers, 1 per child
- ❑ Dry-erase board and dry-erase marker for teacher use (or a sheet of poster board/big paper for each rotation)

🌐 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-sized T-shirt. He can also stay in a disguise all week.

🌐 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.

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

You will agree that in this exercise, only one answer can 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 things mentioned that are on the US bills.

Teacher 2: This test helps you detect counterfeit money. Sometimes people who are 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. They study them so much that they can tell when a fake one comes along by its look and feel. For instance, a real US bill has red and blue fibers inside it. Let’s take a look. [Pass around US bills and magnifying glasses so they can examine them for themselves](#).

Often counterfeiters print tiny red and blue lines on their paper to try to make it look like the red and blue fibers. 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 teeny-tiny printing on the bills.

Next, notice the tiny details with me. Use the magnifying glass to check out the very sharp, crisp borders. [Look at it](#). The portrait is detailed and precise. [Look at it](#). The serial number is evenly spaced and the same color ink. [Look at it](#). All of these details are hard for counterfeiters to make exactly right. [As Teacher 1 continues, move to the puppet stage](#).

Teacher 1: 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 person. 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.

Part 2: Puppet Pal—Test 3: Counterfeit Gods (5 minutes)

Prep: Cut apart the ELIJAH POSTER. Tape one PUPPET SCRIPT inside the puppet stage and attach the other to a clipboard for reference. Dress the puppet (see Teaching Tip in the sidebar) and have an item to use as disguise, such as a hat or dark sunglasses. Print the 1 KINGS 18 DRAWING SHEET and put on clipboards.

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

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

If you don’t have a co-teacher or assistant, enlist 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.) For the first day only, you will need to adjust the script as described below if you have just one person.

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: Now we’re on our third and most important test. Just like we talked about fake money, there are also fake, or counterfeit, gods. These fake gods aren’t anything new. They’re talked about in the Bible. These gods aren’t real because there’s only one true God. Let’s shout together, “One true God!” *Do so.* But people worship or treasure fake gods that can come in all kinds of forms, like trees or cows or statues or even other people, like sports stars or movie stars. Remember, the Bible tells us there’s only one God to worship, or treasure—and that’s the one true God. Let’s have our puppet pal, Charlie, help us learn about a fake god named Baal here in the Bible (*point to 1 Kings 18*). As he does, you’ll draw along with me. We’ll pass out supplies and begin.

The teacher will be doing some talking and some simple drawing during this time. Use a large dry-erase board or piece of poster board/big paper. If you aren’t able to use a puppet, adapt to Teacher 1 and Teacher 2 doing this. Give each child a **1 KINGS 18 DRAWING SHEET** on a clipboard and a marker. Have them draw what you draw as the account is told.

Share this with excitement and animation.

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

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

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

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

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

Puppet: I am! I like to be on the lookout for anything bad, and that includes fake gods. Want to hear about one from the Bible?

Teacher: I sure do!

Puppet: Okay, listen up. About 3,000 years ago, there was a man of God (a prophet) named Elijah who lived in the land of Israel.

Teacher: I know about Elijah! The Lord told him to go and visit the king of Israel, named Ahab. The teacher draws a crown and the cadets draw one in box 1, while the puppet continues.

Puppet: Ahab was a wicked king. He believed in a fake god named Baal instead of believing in the one true God of the Bible. So God gave Elijah an important message for the king. Elijah told Ahab he had been doing wrong because he was worshipping the fake god, Baal.

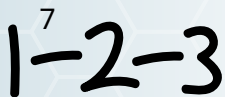
Teacher: Then Elijah challenged Ahab to a contest. He told Ahab to get all the people in Israel and have them meet at Mount Carmel, a mountain nearby. Draw a mountain (box 2 for the cadets) as the puppet continues.

Puppet: Elijah told Ahab to bring all the men who were prophets of Baal with him, which numbered 450 men! It was going to be Elijah, all by himself, against the prophets of Baal—all 450 of them! So Ahab sent word throughout his kingdom and all 450 prophets of Baal came to Mount Carmel.

Teacher: Elijah got up and told them about the contest. He told them to get two bulls—one for Elijah and one for them. He told them to put their bull on a pile of wood, and he would put his bull on a pile of wood. Draw a pile of wood (box 3 for cadets) as the puppet continues.

📋 Clipboards are referenced in the supply lists and prep throughout the week, but if the kids are sitting at tables, you may not choose to use them.





- ◆ Views of God Headings
- ◆ Views of God Posters
- ◆ Day 1 Cipher Poster
- ★ Option 2: Game Scoring Sheet
- Option 2: One pair of large fuzzy dice or inflatable dice

Puppet: Usually when people back then put an animal on a pile of wood, they would light the wood and start a fire to burn it up. But this time, Elijah told them not to set the wood on fire. Instead, he said, “Call on your god Baal.”

Teacher: Draw a guy calling (box 4 for cadets) as the puppet continues.

Puppet: “If he is really a god, he can send fire down to burn up your bull. Then I will call on my God—the Lord. If he really is the one true God, he will send fire down to burn up my bull. We’ll see who is the one true God!” All the people agreed to this contest.

Teacher: The prophets of Baal went first. They built an altar with stones, got their bull, and put it on the wood. Then they called on Baal for hours! But no one answered and nothing happened. Draw a circle with a line through it (box 5 for cadets) as the puppet continues.

Puppet: So they shouted even louder and danced around their altar. They kept this up all day until it was evening, but no one answered and nothing happened.

Teacher: Now it was Elijah’s turn. He built an altar and put the wood on top with his bull. Then he did something different. Elijah dug a ditch all around the altar, and he filled it with water. Then he poured water all over the bull and the wood! Draw water (box 6 for cadets) as the puppet continues.

Puppet: When you want something to catch on fire, do you normally soak it with water first? No! But that’s what Elijah did. He got that bull wet and the ground all around it wet.

Teacher: Then he soaked it again. And then he soaked it a third time! Draw 1–2–3 (box 7 for cadets).

Puppet: By this time, the water had completely filled the ditch and was running all over the place.

Teacher: Why do you think he did that? Take responses. Yes, he was trying to show how powerful the one true God really was. He wanted them to see that not only could his God burn up the bull but the one true God could even burn up the bull if it was soaking wet! Do you think God did it? Take responses. Let’s keep going to find out! Draw Elijah calling (box 8 for cadets) as the puppet continues.

Puppet: 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.” Guess what happened? The Lord God sent fire down!

Teacher: Draw fire (box 9 for cadets) as the puppet continues.

Puppet: It burned up that soaking wet bull, and the soaking wet wood, and even the wet stones and the wet ground! It also licked up all the water that was in the ditch! When everyone saw this, they fell down and cried out, “The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!”

Teacher: Draw the “No Baal” symbol (box 10 for cadets) as the puppet continues.

Puppet: They realized their god, Baal, was a fake. He wasn’t a god at all! He didn’t even exist. There is only one true God in the whole wide world—the God of the Bible.

Teacher: Show the ELIJAH POSTER and answer the question. But did you know that counterfeit (fake) gods aren’t just from Bible times? Even today, people believe in many counterfeit gods. In fact, every person on the planet has a view of God, or what they believe about him. It may be a correct view, or it may be a counterfeit view, but it’s still a view of god. Of course, it’s critical for all Truth Mission Force cadets to have the correct view of God, because what we think about God decides both how we live our lives now and where we’ll spend eternity (forever). It’s a big deal to get our view of God right. Let’s say goodbye to Charlie, then talk more about this.

Part 3: Views of God (10–15 minutes)

There are two options below. Both can work for any age of Primaries, but if you have mainly younger Primaries (first and second graders), choose Option 1, which is simpler and a bit quicker. If you have mainly older Primaries (third graders), you may want to try Option 2, which covers a little more info in a game format.

Option 1: For Younger Primaries

PREP: Cut apart the **VIEWS OF GOD HEADINGS** and the **VIEWS OF GOD POSTERS**. Put up just the two main headings (One True God and Deceiver). You won't need the four wrong views of God for the younger Primaries version (No God, Many Gods, etc.). Fold the **DAY 1 CIPHER POSTER** so the answer isn't showing.

Teacher 1: There are two main views of God. One view is the correct view, which is the one true God of the Bible. He is the creator of the universe ([Genesis 1:1](#)) and the creator of you ([Psalm 139](#))!

Teacher 2: The other view can take many wrong forms. Some people believe there is no God. Some think there is a god, but it's not the one true God described in the Bible. Some people think there are lots of gods, or that anybody is part of a god. These ideas don't come from God, but from the deceiver, also known as Satan or the devil. He is a liar, so all his ideas about gods are wrong, because they're lies.

First, have them guess ahead of time whether they think the one true God or the deceiver will have more. Then begin to show the **VIEWS OF GOD POSTERS** one at a time and have the kids either hold up one finger for the one true God or make an X with their arms for Satan, the deceiver (liar). Tell them the answer and put the poster under either "The One True God" heading or "The Deceiver" heading. There are many examples to choose from. Do as many as works in your setting.

As you go through the views below, emphasize that God cares for every person on this earth. Each one is precious to him and he wants them to know the truth. We too should care and want them to know the truth. It makes us sad when people are deceived by wrong views of God.

1. Darwin Fish—A man named Charles Darwin taught that God didn't 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. [Deceiver \(Liar\)](#).
2. Greek Gods—People who believed this view worshipped Greek gods with names such as Zeus, Athena, and Apollo. These made-up gods made lots of mistakes and were selfish. [Deceiver \(Liar\)](#).
3. Christian Science—This view has a holy book that teaches that evil and matter don't exist; therefore, it says 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. [Deceiver \(Liar\)](#).
4. Jainism—People who believe this 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. [Deceiver \(Liar\)](#).
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](#).
6. New Age Movement—This view states that a person can become one with the universe because all energy comes from the same source. [Deceiver \(Liar\)](#).
7. Cows in India—This view (Hinduism) states that cows are to be worshipped and not killed, so they just roam around the streets. [Deceiver \(Liar\)](#).
8. "God Is Dead"—This view states that there is no reason to believe there is a God. [Deceiver \(Liar\)](#).
9. 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](#).
10. 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 for people to follow. [Deceiver \(Liar\)](#).
11. Native Americans Worshipping Nature—This view states that gods are in the wind, the sun, and everything created. [Deceiver \(Liar\)](#).

Some children's movies portray various views of God if you'd like to mention examples 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 Option 1 or Option 2 and it was very effective. Possibilities 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).

12. Pilgrimage to Mecca—This view states that there's a god named Allah who is to be worshipped. Allah expects them 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. [Deceiver \(Liar\)](#).
13. 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. [Deceiver \(Liar\)](#).
14. 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](#).
15. Aboriginal Beliefs—This view encourages prayer to a variety of gods, often found in different forms in nature. [Deceiver \(Liar\)](#).
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. [Deceiver \(Liar\)](#).

Determine which heading has more posters. Answer: The Deceiver. This should not come as a surprise because Jesus told us it would be this way. Read Matthew 7:13–14.

Teacher 2: Your job from now on, cadets, is to get to know the loving, kind, caring, one true God. Just like people study real money to be able to recognize fake money, we want to study the real God to grow to love him and be able to recognize fakes. 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. And 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 (coded message) 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 4.

Option 2: For Older Primaries

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—and decide who goes first. Put up the headings when indicated below. Leave enough room to put each [VIEWS OF GOD POSTER](#) underneath the correct heading.

Teacher 1: We're going to share a little info you'll need to know to successfully complete this mission—the Views of God Game—so listen carefully, cadets. First, there are two main headings—"The One True God" and "The Deceiver."

Camp One: The One True God

Teacher 2: As mentioned, there's only one view of God in Camp One. VIEW 1—the One True God. [Put this heading up](#). Remember how the Bible tells us he alone is God? Nobody else. So this view of God 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](#))!

Teacher 1: But then we have the deceiver's camp. [Put this heading across from the first heading](#). There are four main views in this camp—and they're all wrong. All wrong views of God come from the deceiver, who is the father of lies. Does anyone think they know who the deceiver is? [Take responses](#). Yes, it's Satan, the devil. He's against everything God does, so he tries to get as many people as he can to believe his false views. These views can look very different, but they are still all wrong. We can't believe them because Satan is a liar and his views don't line up with what the Bible says.

Camp Two: The Deceiver (Liar)

Teacher 2: VIEW 2—No God. [Put this under The Deceiver heading](#). Some people believe there is no God (atheism—"a" for "no" and "theism" for "god"). Thinking there's no God is still a view



of God, even though it's not the correct view of God. This view, as with all the deceiver's views, is based on what people think, not on God's Word.

Teacher 1: 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 (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, an idea we will talk about tomorrow.

Teacher 2: 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 (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.

Teacher 1: 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 a god, so anybody and anything can be part of a god. This is called pantheism (pantheism—"pan" for "all" and "theism" for "gods"). This means the grass, cows, and even people can all be part of a god. This group 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 the **VIEWS OF GOD POSTERS** one at a time as you read the following descriptions. 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 the 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 of these as time allows. The team with the most points wins.

Again, as you go through the views below, emphasize that God cares for every person on this earth. Each one is precious to him and he wants them to know the truth. We too should care and want them to know the truth. It makes us sad when people are deceived by wrong views of God.

1. 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 people who believe this view think the world came about on its own without any Creator. No god (2).
2. Greek Gods—People who believed this view worshipped Greek gods with names such as Zeus, Athena, and Apollo. These made-up gods made lots of mistakes and were selfish. Many gods (4).
3. Christian Science—This view has a holy book that teaches that evil and matter don't exist; therefore, there is 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. One false god (3).
4. Jainism—People who believe this 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).
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).
6. New Age Movement—This view states that people can become one with the universe because all energy comes from the same source. All is part of god (5).
7. Cows in India—This view (Hinduism) states that cows are to be worshipped and not killed, so cows just roam around the streets. Many gods (4) or All is part of god (5). Hinduism believes both so accept either answer.
8. "God Is Dead"—This view states that there is no reason to believe there is a God. No god (2).





9. 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 \(1\)](#).
10. 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 for people to follow. [No god \(2\)](#).
11. Native Americans Worshipping Nature—This view states that gods are in the wind, the sun, and everything created. [All is part of god \(5\)](#).
12. Pilgrimage to Mecca— This view states that there's a god named Allah who is to be worshipped. Allah expects them 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. [One false god \(3\)](#).
13. 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 \(2\)](#).
14. 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 “heaven.” The one true God is different because he has done it for you! It is through a gift (grace), not works, that Christians are saved.

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 views is correct. Which is it? 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 very best 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 write down 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 will tell the truth, because God, being perfect, can only tell the truth. And it's cool that historical and scientific evidence agree with, or confirm, 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 Bible time places 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 we can trust to be completely true. So the Bible is where to go to learn the truth about God.

Teacher 2: Your job from now on, cadets, is to get to know the loving, kind, caring, one true God. Just like people study real money to be able to recognize fake money, we want to study the real God to grow to love him and be able to recognize the fakes. So 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. And 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 (coded message) 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.

Part 4: 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. A cell phone works for a timer or make a 60-second count-down slide.

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 and camouflage. It can look like a lot of other animals. What does that have to do with 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.

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? Have them 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 book should we study to get to know the one true God? The Bible.
5. How many right views of God are there? One.
6. Yes or no: Are there wrong views of God out there? Yes.
7. Where do all the wrong views of God come from? The deceiver, Satan. He's a liar.
8. Yes or no: The true God is named Poseidon. No. That's a fake god the Greeks believed in.
9. If you did the older version: 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 that 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 Primary 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 for their hard work.

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.

♦ Day 1 Animal Pal Poster

- ☐ Spy U Maps and Camo Stickers, 1 per child
- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Optional: Small prizes



🌐 Gospel Opportunity

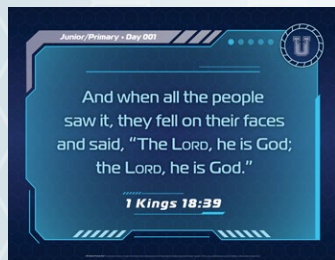
♦ Day 1 Memory Verse Poster

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

★ Download from AnswersVBS.
com/spyuresources.

♦ Find in your teacher kit.

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



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 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 that 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.

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 a false view 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 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 are ways I can learn more about the one true God (e.g., listen to the Bible, read the Bible, go to church, pray)?