

TRUTH SLEUTH

00:00:00:01

IMPACTFUL

FINGERPRINT ANALYSIS

ISO 100 1/100 F2.8

HANDS-ON FUN **DETECTED**
3840 x 2160 HD

TRUTH SLEUTH
SCIENCE AND CRAFTS

3840 x 2160 HD

3840 x 2160 HD

Answers**VBS**

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 I Spy Shaker
Truth Sleuth Science	Spot the Fake! Whose Writing Is It?	Unique Fingerprints 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



Contents

Handy Helps	3
Your Mission.	3
Your Role.	4
Frequently Asked Questions	4
Terms to Know	4
Top 20 Tips for Truth Sleuth Science and Crafts.	5
Toddler and Pre-Primary Science Activities	6
Main Science Experiments	
Day 1: Spot the Fake!	8
Day 1: Whose Writing Is It?	10
Day 2: Unique Fingerprint Patterns	12
Day 2: Print Patrol	14
Day 3: Insect Detectives	16
Day 3: pHantastic Experiment	18
Day 4: Secret Ink Lab.	20
Day 4: The Code of You!	22
Day 5: If the Shoe Fits	24
Day 5: Decoding the Digital World.	26
Toddler Crafts.	28
Main Crafts	
Day 1: A-maze-ing God Maze	32
Day 1: Master of Disguise Mimic	34
Day 2: Spy Kit	36
Day 2: Trinity Keepsake Ornament	38
Day 3: Ichthys “Jesus Fish”	40
Day 3: Verse Decoder.	42
Day 4: Forgiving Father Agamograph	44
Day 4: One True God Bible Bookmark.	46
Day 4: One True God Binoculars	48
Day 5: Love God Magnet.	50
Day 5: Secret Spy Bracelet.	51
Day 5: I Spy Shaker.	52
More Crafts	54
Experiments Supply List	56

Limited License to Copy:

A limited license is available to make copies of this book. You may make copies of portions of the book if (1) you are the purchaser; (2) the copies are used exclusively for noncommercial purposes within your church or organization (an entire denomination is not considered a “church” or “organization” under this license); and (3) you follow the instructions provided in the book.

Truth Sleuth Science & Crafts

Copyright © 2026 Answers in Genesis. All rights reserved. Limited license to copy.

Project Coordinator: Stacia McKeever

Writers/Contributors: Randy and Barb Witt, Kathy Goodlett, Christa

Sexton, Krista Black, Linda Moore, and Jennifer Rivera

Editors: Linda Moore, Angela Carlisle, and Gretchen Doolittle

Cover & Book Design: Diane King, Jon Seest, and Abby Smith

Cover Illustration: Sean Salter

Science Illustrations: Hayley Browning

Craft Photos: Susie Jarvis and Christopher Trefrey

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. ESV Text Edition: 2025. The ESV text may not be quoted in any publication made available to the public by a Creative Commons license. The ESV may not be translated in whole or in part into any other language. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

For more information, write:

Answers in Genesis, PO Box 510, Hebron, KY 41048

Printed in China.

Handy Helps

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 is outlined in the following pages. Your responsibilities may include:

- Planning crafts and science experiments for all age levels
- Overseeing assistants
- Organizing a sign-up for donating materials
- Buying all supplies that have not been donated
- Enlisting help and preparing supplies
- Acting as the presenter during VBS or overseeing others who present the activities
- Overseeing the daily setup and cleanup of the area(s)
- Making sure key lesson themes are reinforced
- Praying over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS

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 Tips for Truth Sleuth Science and Crafts

1. Pray! This is your most important preparation. Give all concerns to the Lord and watch *him* do great things!
2. This guide offers main craft and science experiment suggestions as well as ideas for extra crafts and craft kit options. Some are simple and quick, while others are more involved. There are fun crafts for Toddlers and simple science activities for both Pre-Primates and Toddlers. Think through your time and resources and decide which crafts and/or science experiments you will do each day.
3. Gather faithful helpers who will prepare items well in advance. Record their names, addresses, cell phone numbers, and email addresses so you can contact them quickly and easily.
4. Make a sample of every craft and science experiment before you meet with your team for the first time so they can visualize what you are presenting. Each helper should make a sample of each craft so they're familiar with all the steps. Try out each science experiment ahead of time and make sure your presenters have done a trial run as well.
5. Host "Craft Shops" or "Science Shops" where volunteers can drop by and pick up materials to prep at home or stay and prep materials as a group. Set up assembly lines to prep craft materials quickly. Week-day or Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon, complete with doughnuts and coffee, can be an enjoyable time of preparation.
6. Use an office paper cutter for patterns or paper with straight edges. Make sure to remove the paper cutter and any other dangerous supplies, such as miter saws and craft knives, from the classrooms. If a science experiment calls for this type of item, store it in a safe place before and after use.
7. Be prepared. Organize crafts into individual kits for each child, using plastic baggies or lunch sacks. Place the individual kits into boxes labeled for each rotation. Organize science experiment supplies as well, considering whether they will be done by individuals, groups, or as teacher demos (noted in the directions).
8. Cover the tables with plastic tablecloths and secure with tape.
9. Craft glue, such as Tacky Glue, works better than school glue for grade-schoolers. Toothpicks and Q-tips work well for dipping into glue and applying it.
10. Permanent markers in vibrant colors can be a good alternative to paint for grade-schoolers. They work on most surfaces—paper, wood, fabric, and plastic.
11. Decorate the room to correspond with the theme. See Decorating Decisions in the Director Guide for ideas. Play VBS music to set the mood. Display the memory verses on each table or around the room. Place a sample of each craft or science experiment on every table so children can visualize what they will be making or doing.
12. Slide presentations or overhead projectors are helpful for sharing directions and resources referenced in the activities. Video capabilities are also helpful in the science room.
13. Use this time to engage in conversation and share God's love. Be ready to offer smiles, hugs, and laughs. (Be aware of your church's appropriate touching policies.)
14. Be ready to help children who are easily frustrated. Helping with steps requiring physical dexterity does not detract from the child's creativity.
15. To reinforce the day's lesson, share the introductions or teaching tie-ins that go with each science experiment or craft. Ask the kids about what they're learning throughout your time together or right before they leave this rotation.
16. Print the daily memory verses on address labels and place on finished crafts or experiments, if possible.
17. Give leftover craft supplies to sick children, another VBS, or your church's resource area.
18. Always put names on crafts and take-home science experiments! Strips of masking tape work well for name labels.
19. The test churches divide this rotation time by having 17 minutes in a science room, attempting one or two science experiments, and 17 minutes in a craft room, doing one or two crafts.
20. This book is loaded with fabulous stuff—more than you'll probably be able to do—so consider incorporating unused ideas at other times during your ministry year.

Toddler and Pre-Primary Science Activities

Day 1

God Is There—Just like Air

Gather the following supplies:

To share: One or two balloons, an electric fan, a hand fan, and some liquid bubbles

Prep: None

Introduction: How many of you know what air is? Put your hand in front of your mouth and blow. **Do so.** Do you feel that? That's called air. Have you ever seen leaves on a tree move on a windy day? Air does that. Our bodies need air. Take a deep breath. **Do so.** Hold it! Now blow it out. When you breathe, air goes into your lungs and back out. We can't see air, but we can feel it and see what it does when it blows around. This reminds us of what God is like. We can't see him, but we know he's there. The Bible tells us God is omnipresent. Say that with me. **Do so.** That means God is everywhere all the time. We can't see God, but we can feel his comfort and joy that he gives to his children. And we can see how he gives us good things and helps us each day. Let's do some experiments to remind us that just like air, God is there, even though we can't see him.

Directions: Do the following to show the children different ways we can notice air: Blow up a balloon partway and tie it shut, then let the kids feel the air by pushing on the balloon; blow up another balloon and let the air out; turn on a fan and wave the hand fan to feel the air move; blow a few bubbles, explaining that you fill the soapy water with air when you blow into the liquid.

Day 2

A Unique God and a Unique Me

Gather the following supplies:

Per child: 1 piece of plain paper, magnifying glass, wet wipe

To share: **Big Fingerprints Poster**, washable fingerprint ink pads

Prep: None

Introduction: We've been learning about the one true God. He is unique. That means there is no one else like him. God is three persons in one: God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Did you know that God made each of you unique too? No one else is exactly like you. You even have unique fingerprints. Look at your fingers. Do you see the little swirly lines? Those are your very own fingerprints. No one else has fingerprints just like yours! Our fingerprints are all different, but they always have certain shapes. **Show the BIG FINGERPRINTS POSTER.** One shape is called an arch. That's when the lines go up and back down, like an arch on a bridge. Some of you might have loop lines on your fingers. These look kind of like a slide. And some of us have whorl-shaped fingerprints with lines that go round and round, like a cinnamon roll. Let's be like spies now and make prints of our fingers. We'll look at them closely to see which shapes we have.

Directions: **Using the ink pads, help children make fingerprints on their papers.** Look at your prints through the magnifying glasses, then check out the poster to see which shape you have. You can also look at each other's fingerprints.

Day 3

Clear Clues

Gather the following supplies:

Per child or to share: Magnifying glasses; several small items with details to magnify, such as flowers, pine cones, feathers, fruits, etc. If possible, gather enough of the same objects for each child to have one.

Prep: None

Introduction: When spies try to figure something out, they may look for clues with a magnifying glass. When you look at something carefully through a magnifying glass, it looks bigger so you can clearly see all the tiny parts that you couldn't see before. Looking at things carefully this way helps spies find the most clues that will help them on their mission. Our mission is to learn about the one true God from the Bible. When we read the Bible and listen to it carefully, we can find clues about God and why Jesus came to rescue sinners. Let's practice looking

DAY 1 EXPERIMENT

Spot the Fake!

Materials

- ☐ Timer
- ☐ Optional: Clipboard, marker, and whiteboard

Per Child

- ☐ [Spot the Fake Chart](#)
- ☐ Pencil

Prep

1. Print a copy of the SPOT THE FAKE CHART for each child. Keep a copy for yourself.
2. Pass out worksheets and pencils.
3. For a small class, have kids work at one table. For a large class, split into groups at separate tables.
4. Have a timer handy.
5. Optional: If you don't have a table, give each child a clipboard and gather them in a circle.

Class Time Directions & Dialogue

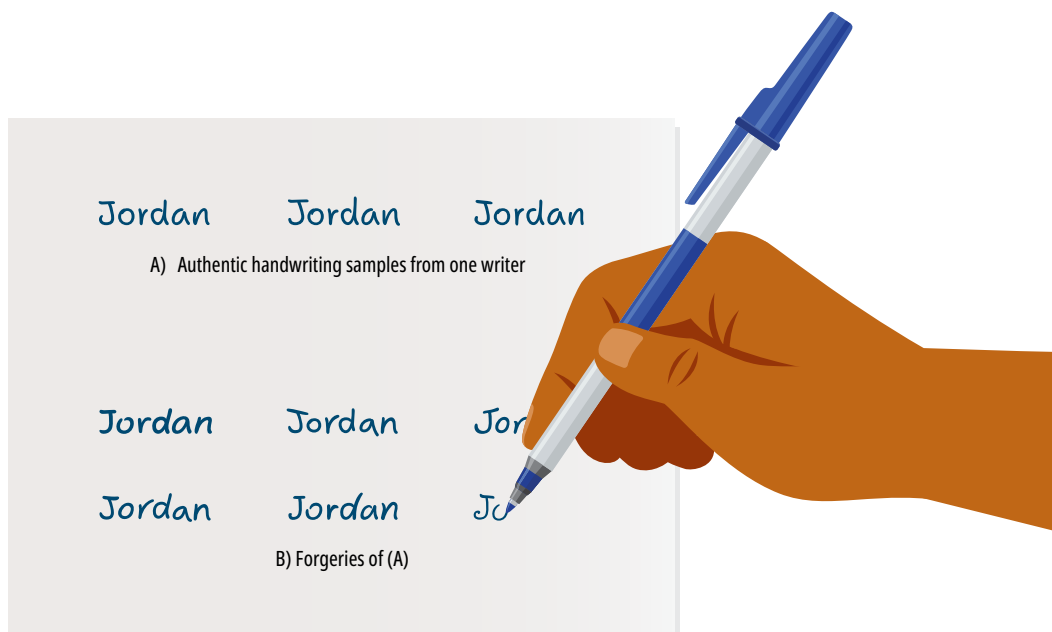
Introduction

The introduction is the same for both Day 1 experiments.

Welcome, cadets! Here at Spy University, our goal is to detect counterfeit gods and learn about our one true God. What does “counterfeit” mean? [Take responses](#).

A counterfeit is a fake. A thief might make counterfeit money and pass it off as real money. A counterfeit painting is a copied painting meant to look like a real, famous work of art. Our Bible lesson today is about the one true God and how he's different from the counterfeit gods of other religions.

As part of your spy training, you need to learn how to look for details, the small things that most people might miss. That's what forensic science is all about. Forensic scientists study evidence or clues to solve crimes. They look at details left behind at a crime scene, like hair and fingerprints, that can help them identify the culprit.



One of the details that forensic scientists study is a person's handwriting. How a person writes can tell you a lot about them. This is true about the Bible as well. Did you know that God wrote the Ten Commandments with his own finger ([Deuteronomy 9:10](#))? These are important rules that we should take seriously, so it makes sense that God himself wrote them down for Moses to tell the people.

Every word in the Bible is breathed out by God; he is the author of the Bible ([2 Timothy 3:16](#)). But he used men to write down each book, and some of those writers worked with a person called a scribe. The Apostle Paul would tell his scribe what to write, and the scribe would carefully write it down. Sometimes, Paul himself would handwrite his letters. In certain letters, he wrote a few verses by hand and expected those who read them to recognize his handwriting ([2 Thessalonians 3:17](#) and [1 Corinthians 16:21](#)).

Let's do an experiment to test your spy skills and learn more about handwriting.

Directions

Show the **SPOT THE FAKE CHART**. On your chart, there are three columns. Your instructions are next to each box as you work your way down. Write your name (called your signature) in the first box in the first column marked "You." [Do so](#).

In the box below that, slowly copy your name. Try your best to write your name exactly like you did before. [Do so](#).

This next part is tricky. Are you cadets ready for a challenge? We're going to disguise our handwriting. What's a disguise? [A costume you wear to look like someone or something else](#).

Spies dress up in disguises to look like someone or something else. It's what we call "going incognito." Spies do this so they can sneak around and find out secret information. We're going to disguise our handwriting as if someone else were writing it. In the next box down, the third box, write your name differently. Try writing it as fast as you can, writing really small or tall letters, or crossing your *T*s in a different way. [Demonstrate on the chart or on the board](#). Print your name normally, then print it slanted, in large letters, or crossing your *T*s differently. Then have students write on their charts.

Those are some sneaky disguises. Here's the next challenge. In the next box down, write the numbers 0–9.

Then in the box beneath, disguise your writing as you write the numbers again! I'll give you one minute to complete this mission. [Set a timer or watch the clock](#).

Here's the next challenge. Pass your papers to the person sitting on your left. [Do so](#).

Everyone should have a paper with their neighbor's name on it. You are going to copy their handwriting in the "Person 1" column. Copy their name in the first and second boxes. Then in the third box down, try to copy their disguised handwriting. Carefully look at each letter and try to write it exactly like they did. [Do so](#).

Now, copy their normal numbers and disguised numbers in the last two boxes. [Do so](#).

Next, pass the paper to the person on your left. [Do so](#). You're going to copy everything from the "You" column into the "Person 2" column. Try to write exactly like the first writer. [Allow time for writing](#).

Now pass the paper to the right two times so it goes back to the original writer. You may need to ask someone for their name! [Do this step slowly so that the papers end up with the correct person](#).

Good forensic scientists ask questions and review their findings. Was it easy or hard for you to copy someone else's handwriting and why? [Discuss](#).

God made each one of you unique. Just as he made each of our fingerprints unique, he also gave us different ways of writing. Forensic scientists study suspects' handwriting and look for differences between a real signature and a counterfeit or forgery. A crook can try really hard to copy someone's signature. Sometimes, they get close to the real thing. But forensic scientists know the handwriting of two people will never be the same!

Tip Corner

- The activity runs smoothly when children are instructed to pass the papers in the same direction to the left or right in the circle.
- Younger children or children with physical disabilities may need more time to write, or they may need to write less. Tell them it's okay if their handwriting is not exactly like the original writer's. The point is to get as close as you can.
- If time allows, have children practice writing the memory verse in different ways on the back of their paper or on the whiteboard with markers.

DAY 1 EXPERIMENT

Whose Writing Is It?

Materials

- Optional: Marker and whiteboard

Per Child

- 2 sheets of paper
- Pencil
- Small piece of painter's tape
- Clipboard (if not at a table)

Per Table

- 1 copy of the [Verse and Reference Sheet](#)

Prep

1. Set a **VERSE AND REFERENCE SHEET** at each table or write the verse and reference on the board.
2. Set out pencils and two sheets of paper for each child.

Class Time Directions & Dialogue

Introduction

The introduction is the same for both Day 1 experiments.

Welcome, cadets! Here at Spy University, our goal is to detect counterfeit gods and learn about our one true God. What does "counterfeit" mean? [Take responses](#).

A counterfeit is a fake. A thief might make counterfeit money and pass it off as real money. A counterfeit painting is a copied painting meant to look like a real, famous work of art. Our Bible lesson today is about the one true God and how he's different from the counterfeit gods of other religions.

As part of your spy training, you need to learn how to look for details, the small things that most people might miss. That's what forensic science is all about. Forensic scientists study evidence or clues to solve crimes. They look at details left behind at a crime scene, like hair and fingerprints, that can help them identify the culprit.

1 Kings 18:39b



"The LORD, he is God;
the LORD, he is God."

"The LORD, he is God;
the LORD, he is God."

"The LORD, he is God;
the LORD, he is God."

"The LORD, he is God;
the LORD, he is God."

"The LORD, he is God;
the LORD, he is God."

One of the details that forensic scientists study is a person's handwriting. How a person writes can tell you a lot about them. This is true about the Bible as well. Did you know that God wrote the Ten Commandments with his own finger ([Deuteronomy 9:10](#))? These are important rules that we should take seriously, so it makes sense that God himself wrote them down for Moses to tell the people.

Every word in the Bible is breathed out by God; he is the author of the Bible ([2 Timothy 3:16](#)). But he used men to write down each book, and some of those writers worked with a person called a scribe. The Apostle Paul would tell his scribe what to write, and the scribe would carefully write it down. Sometimes, Paul himself would handwrite his letters. In certain letters, he wrote a few verses by hand and expected those who read them to recognize his handwriting ([2 Thessalonians 3:17](#) and [1 Corinthians 16:21](#)).

Let's do an experiment to test your spy skills and learn more about handwriting.

Directions

Spies must know the difference between someone's real handwriting and a forgery. That's when someone copies a person's handwriting onto something important to make it look like that person signed it.

Everyone should have our memory verse and a Bible reference at their table. [Refer to the verse and reference on the table or board. Read the memory verse together.](#)

You should also have two blank pieces of paper. On one sheet, copy the verse. When you're done, lightly write your initials on the back. This part is important, so do it carefully! [Do so.](#)

[Collect the verse papers.](#) A Bible reference tells us which book of the Bible we're reading from, plus the chapter and verse number. It looks a little like a spy code, doesn't it? Write it down on your other piece of paper and lightly put your initials on the back. [Do so.](#)

[Collect the reference papers.](#) As you do so, ask a fun question like "What kind of spy gadget would you build and why?" or "Would you rather have a jet pack or a hang glider?" While students discuss, shuffle the reference papers. Choose one at random and cover over the initials.

Cadets, we have a mystery on our hands. [Hold up the reference paper.](#) Our suspect is the person who wrote this very important document. We need to figure out who wrote it without looking at their initials. If you wrote it, don't say anything! We don't want to spoil the surprise.

I need everyone's help for this mission. Let's spread out all the Bible verse papers on the floor so we can study the handwriting and see whose handwriting matches with this document. [Have children or a volunteer help you spread out the papers.](#)

[Hold up the suspect's writing again.](#) Look closely. Forensic scientists study details in a person's handwriting, like the slant of the letters (left or right), space between letters, or how they cross their *T*s or dot their *I*s. [Point out the slant of the letters, their shape, and their size in the example.](#) Praise the student's writing; do not mention spelling errors.

Everyone, look through our Bible verses and see if you can find whose handwriting matches our suspect's reference paper. [Allow time for students to search.](#)

Did you crack the case? Whose writing is this? [Take answers. Point out the matching characteristics. Reveal the writer.](#)

Excellent detective work! Our suspect has been caught red-handed for their amazing handwriting.

God made each one of you unique. Just as he made each of our fingerprints unique, he also gave us different ways of writing. Forensic scientists study suspects' handwriting and look for differences between a real signature and a forgery. A crook can try really hard to forge someone's signature. Sometimes, they get close to the real thing. But forensic scientists know the handwriting of two people will never be the same!

Tip Corner

- Be sure to hide the initials on the suspect's paper so children do not peek.
- Younger children or children with physical disabilities may need more time to write, or have them write a shorter portion.

Toddler Crafts

Craft activities can make great connections to the spiritual themes being taught. This hands-on fun time is designed to help the children connect with what they're learning.

Young children need simple crafts that are fun to put together and play with. More prep needs to take place so the children are left with simply decorating, attaching stickers, gluing, and enjoying the process.

Decide who will be in charge of preparing the craft materials (craft leaders, Toddler teachers, or someone

else). As with all materials used with young children, carefully ensure that all items are nontoxic and are not choking hazards.

Plan two craft times a day or one craft and one science time. (Be prepared to skip one or both if the children need more rest time.) Have fun and use these activities along with the teaching tie-ins to reinforce the big themes of the week.

Thematic Crafts

Some basic items are not listed in supply lists below, such as a paper cutter, scissors, glue, stapler, ruler, etc.

Glue sticks sometimes do not adhere well to some materials. So for some gluing, pour a small amount of glue into a plastic bowl or plate for children to share. Provide small paintbrushes or cotton swabs for spreading.

Day 1

Craft 1—Octopus in Disguise

Gather the following supplies:

Per child: 1 paper cup; 2 wiggle eye stickers; one 10-inch length of narrow curling ribbon; eight 10-inch lengths of crepe paper streamer

To share: Variety of colored tissue paper, sea creature stickers, Mod Podge or glue/water mixture, small paintbrushes

Prep: Cut the ribbon and crepe paper streamers according to measurements given. Tear the tissue paper into small pieces. For each cup, poke two holes in the bottom about 1 inch apart. Push each end of the curling ribbon into one of the holes from the bottom. Flip the cup upright, pull the ribbon ends through, and tie them in a knot. On the outside, pull the ribbon back for a hanger loop. Pinch both pieces of ribbon together about halfway up the loop, then fold a small piece of tape around them to keep the ribbon upright and out of the way.

During class: Have the kids glue the tissue paper pieces onto their cup, overlapping the tissue like a collage. Spread glue on the *inside* of the cup rim and stick on



one end of each streamer piece, overlapping them evenly around the rim. Have kids add eyes on one side of the cup. Add sea creature stickers to the streamers. For a finished look, paint over the tissue on the cup with Mod Podge or glue/water mixture. Allow to dry. Optional: To add “motion” to the arms, fold and glue some streamers to themselves to make them look like they’re bending or glue part of one or two to the outside of the cup.

TEACHING TIE-IN

We’re learning about disguises today. The mimic octopus is great at disguising itself by changing colors. We also learned that fake gods can be disguised to seem like the one true God. They don’t have any power because they are not real.

Craft 2—Elijah Puppet Play Set

Gather the following supplies:

Per child: 1 [Elijah Puppet Pattern](#); 1 short 4-ounce foam cup or snack bowl; 12–14 gray, brown, tan, and/or black



DAY 1 CRAFT

A-maze-ing God Maze

JUNIOR, PRIMARY & PRE-PRIMARY

Materials

- ❑ [Maze Pattern](#)
- ❑ [Box Labels Pattern](#)

Per Child

- ❑ 1 sheet white cardstock
- ❑ ½ sheet colored cardstock
- ❑ 1 pizza box (7 x 7 inches)
- ❑ 5 paper straws (7¾ inches)
- ❑ 1 round marble (¾ inch)
- ❑ 1 zippered baggie

Tools and Basic Supplies

- ❑ Office paper cutter—adults only
- ❑ Scissors
- ❑ Craft glue
- ❑ Glue sticks
- ❑ Sharpies
- ❑ Spray paint (if necessary)*—adults only
- ❑ Optional: Markers

Prep

1. Print/copy the **MAZE PATTERNS** onto white cardstock. Cut out 1 per child.
2. Print/copy the **BOX LABELS PATTERN** onto colored cardstock. Cut out 1 set per child.
3. Assemble the pizza boxes.
4. Cut the straws into carefully measured pieces so that each child gets the following: seven 1-inch pieces, three 2-inch pieces, three 3-inch pieces, one 4-inch piece, and two 5-inch pieces.
5. Place sets of the straw pieces and a marble into zippered baggies for each child.

*If the top of your pizza boxes have printed logos and lettering that will not be covered by “The A-maze-ing God Maze” label, you can either cover the print with large pieces of colored cardstock OR spray-paint the entire box.

Teaching Tie-In

Show the sample craft. Where should we look to find out about the only true God? Take responses. The Bible. Why do some people have ideas about God that are different from what the Bible says? Take responses. They are basing their ideas on man’s thoughts rather than the Bible. How can you know for sure what the one true God is really like? Take responses. Always rely on



what the Bible says. It's the only perfect book and the only 100% accurate source. Today, we're going to make an A-maze-ing God Maze that will remind us to beware of false views of God. What we believe about God is very important, and we need to get it right.

Class Time Directions

1. Use a glue stick to glue the maze to the inside bottom of the box.
2. Make a dent in the four solid black Os by carefully pressing the rounded end of a Sharpie into each one.
3. Lay the straw pieces on top of the black maze lines. Then use a bead of craft glue to attach each piece into place.
4. Use a glue stick to glue "The Lord, He Is God" label to the underside of the box lid.
5. Close the box and use a glue stick to attach "The A-maze-ing God Maze" label to the lid.
6. Decorate the lid with markers if desired.
7. Make sure to wait until the glue dries before using a marble in your maze.

Tip Corner

- To make the maze more challenging, make holes where the dents are, being careful not to damage the game board in the process.
- You can adapt the materials to a slightly larger pizza box by enlarging the maze pattern and making adjustments to the straw piece sizes.

Super Simple Idea

Each day, at least one super simple option is included, which is a premade craft kit from Oriental Trading Company that goes along with the main concepts of the day. To order, call 1 (800) 875-8480 or visit OrientalTrading.com.

As an alternative to the Day 1 main crafts, try the following craft kit. Note that this is available at the time of printing and may not be available later:

- Elijah's Altar Craft Kit (Item Number: #14383731). Manufacturer does not recommend for children under three years of age.

DAY 1 CRAFT

Master of Disguise Mimic

JUNIOR, PRIMARY & PRE-PRIMARY

Materials

Per child

- ☐ 4 brown chenille stems
- ☐ 4 white chenille stems
- ☐ 2 wiggle eyes or sticker eyes
- ☐ 2 permanent glue dots

Prep

Make a sample. (This goes for every craft.)

Teaching Tie-In

Show the sample craft. If you could disguise yourself as anything, what would it be? Take responses. The mimic octopus is a master of disguise. He can contort into various shapes that mimic other animals. Similarly, false gods aren't real but can mimic the one true God. In other words, they seem somewhat like the true God of the Bible, but upon closer examination, you will find they don't line up with God's Word. Always beware of counterfeit gods (there are a lot of them!) and spend time learning what God's Word says so you can get to know the true God of the Bible.

Class Time Directions

1. Demonstrate twisting and bending. Take one brown and one white chenille stem and twist them together until they form one brown-and-white-striped stem.
2. Repeat this until you have four brown and white stems.
3. Put the four twisted stems next to each other, then bend them in half.
4. From the bend, go a third of the way down and twist the stems together with a full 180° twist.
5. The eight pieces sticking out below the twist are the arms of the octopus. Spread those out and bend them to make them look like an octopus' arms.
6. Use glue dots to attach the eyes to the body of the octopus.



Tip Corner

- Twist the chenille stems tighter for smaller stripes or less tight for larger stripes.
- Experiment with different colored chenille stems.
- Each child can make an extra octopus to give away.

Super Simple Idea

Try the following Oriental Trading Company craft kit. To order, call 1 (800) 875-8480 or visit OrientalTrading.com.

Note that this is available at the time of printing and may not be available later.

- Multicolor Cupcake Liner Octopus Craft Kit (Item Number: #13970868). Manufacturer does not recommend for children under three years of age.