

TOP SECRET

SPY U



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



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Top Secret Snacks

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

- Planning snacks for all age levels
- Organizing the snack donation sign-up
- Buying supplies that have not been donated
- Preparing daily snacks for VBS and/or overseeing others who are helping with snacks
- Monitoring which children have allergies and planning accordingly
- Coordinating the serving of snacks each day

- Making sure key lesson themes are reinforced during the snack time
- Overseeing the cleanup of the snack area(s) each day
- Praying over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS

This is *your* guide. Read it carefully and prayerfully, using our suggestions combined with the ideas the Holy Spirit brings to your mind.

So get ready! Get set! 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/spyufaqa.

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 Top Secret Snacks

1. Pray! This is your most important preparation. Give all concerns to the Lord and watch *him* do great things.
2. After reading the daily snack choices, including the Super Simple Options, Healthy Options, Toddler Options, and extra ideas listed in the Tip Corners, decide which snack you will serve each day. There are also Additional Snack Ideas at the back of the book.
3. Test each recipe ahead of time to learn how to prepare the snack efficiently. Check out [Pinterest.com/answersvbs/](https://www.pinterest.com/answersvbs/) for pictures of the snacks and fun ways to present them.
4. Don't forget to include VBS workers in your calculations! Offer munchies for adult and teen helpers to grab on the run.
5. Plan two snacks per day for Toddlers. See the Toddler Snacks list for suggestions to pair with other ideas in this book. When choosing other options, be mindful of small foods that may be choking hazards for young children (e.g., hot dogs, nuts, marshmallows, raisins or dried fruits, grapes, hard or very chewy candies, chunks of cheese or fruit, triangle-shaped chips, and popcorn).
6. Calculate your portions based on the daily snack supply list located on the back cover. (Additional Snack Ideas are not included in this list.) Make a snack donation list based on what you've chosen and share it with those in your ministry.
7. Set up a collection area for incoming supplies. Label the supplies for VBS to prevent hungry people from opening unlabeled food. Stockpile your items in a safe place.
8. Check with local restaurants for donations of cups, napkins, and lemonade mix.
9. Assess your stock often. As VBS approaches, purchase what has not been donated.
10. Prepare as much as you are able to ahead of time. Use zippered baggies when possible to hold individual snacks for each child.
11. Be aware of common allergens such as nuts (e.g., peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oil, and tree nuts), dyes (red, blue, and yellow), dairy, berries, gluten, wheat, soy, eggs, and corn. Be vigilant and careful regarding all of this! Plan alternate snacks or ask parents to provide an alternative. It's also helpful to make a list of all the ingredients used in each snack so parents can see if there will be any problematic ingredients. Post the daily list in a visible spot (e.g., on the entry doors, at the snack location, at the info counter) and in your Caretaker Handbook.
12. In addition, keep a list of children with allergies and monitor what is being served to them. Make sure all leaders and snack servers are aware of who has what allergies.
13. Enlist help for the preparation station in the kitchen and for the serving station in the refreshment area. If serving indoors, set up the serving station away from kitchen knives, hot pans, and potentially slippery floors. If serving outside, place a table in the shade.
14. Decorate the space so it has kid appeal and hang up the "Top Secret Snacks" sign. Post a sign announcing the featured food and drink of the day. Check the Decorating Decisions section in the *Director Guide* for more decorating ideas. Play VBS music.
15. Check the daily attendance for an accurate number of children. Make extra snacks for latecomers.
16. Use good hygiene. Adults must wash their hands before preparing food. Plastic food-prep gloves should be worn by food staff, and long hair should be pulled back. Children should take a quick bathroom break and wash their hands before snack time. Use wipes or hand sanitizer for quick hand cleanup.
17. Keep drinks cold in large coolers, such as 10-gallon coolers with a pour spigot.
18. Pray and thank God for the snacks before eating.
19. While the children are eating, reinforce the day's lesson using the Teaching Tie-In given for each snack. (Make sure to have a Bible to read verses if there are any referenced.) Then use the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts to have fun, guided conversations.
20. Place large, wheeled trash cans with trash bags in the area for quick cleanup.

Toddler Snacks

Day 1

Fake Fries (per child)

- ☐ 1 small apple
- ☐ 1 tbsp. strawberry jam
- ☐ Lemon juice and water
- ☐ Sprinkle of cinnamon sugar
- ☐ 1 fry paper (buy online or from a restaurant supply store)
- ☐ 1 small condiment cup
- ☐ Crinkle cutter



Cut the apple using the crinkle cutter to make it look like french fries. Mix a small amount of lemon juice and water. Lightly dip apple slices in the lemon juice/water mixture to prevent browning and let dry. Dust apples with cinnamon sugar and serve in a fry paper. Place strawberry jam in a condiment cup on the side.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Pray before eating. What does our snack look like? **Take responses.** Now, what does it taste like? **Have everyone take a bite.** **Take responses.** Well, it looks like french fries and ketchup, but it's actually apples and jam! That was a funny trick, huh? Today, we're learning about the one true God. Sometimes people are tricked into believing that there are lots of gods, but that's not true. Let's shout out, "One true God!" as loud as we can to remind ourselves that we may have been tricked by our snack today, but we don't want to ever be tricked into thinking there are other gods! **Do so.**

Day 2

Pudding 1-2-3 (12 servings)

- ☐ 1 large 6-ounce box of each of the following instant puddings: butterscotch, vanilla, and chocolate
- ☐ 7-9 c. milk (check pudding box for specific amount)
- ☐ Clear punch cups and spoons (1 of each per child)
- ☐ Plastic wrap



Make each kind of pudding according to package directions. Layer the puddings in clear punch cups—about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup for each layer, starting with chocolate, then vanilla, then butterscotch on top. Cover with plastic wrap and chill. Serve one cup per child.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Pray before eating. Here's a riddle for you: Who is one but also three? Answer: The Trinity! Who knows who the Trinity is? **God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.** We have one cup of pudding but three different flavors. God is one but also three persons. We know our three-in-one God is true because the Bible says he is! **This pudding is not meant to be an analogy for the Trinity; all analogies fall short of demonstrating the Trinity.**

Day 3

Mini Magnifying Glass (per child)

- ☐ 1 Ritz cracker
- ☐ $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. frosting
- ☐ 1 Nilla wafer
- ☐ 1 small strip of fruit leather
- ☐ Optional: Magnifying glass



Spread frosting on the center of the Ritz cracker and place the Nilla wafer on top. Cut a strip of fruit leather and slide the tip under the Ritz to create a magnifying glass look-alike.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Pray before eating. Does anyone know what our snack is supposed to look like? **Take responses.** Have you ever heard of a magnifying glass? **Show one to the children.** Magnifying glasses are special tools we use to make little things look really big. Our snack today looks like a magnifying glass!

DAY 1

Mini Mimic

Ingredients (8 servings)

- ☐ 1 can crescent roll dough
- ☐ 16 black sesame seeds or edible food marker
- ☐ 1 c. nacho cheese dip

Lookout Lemonade Drink

- ☐ Powdered lemonade drink mix and water, 1 quart per 5 children

Basic Supplies

- ☐ Oven
- ☐ Measuring cup
- ☐ Baking sheet
- ☐ Kitchen scissors
- ☐ Spoon
- ☐ Small condiment cups for cheese
- ☐ Themed plates, cups, and napkins
- ☐ Pitchers or coolers

Prep

1. Use one triangle of crescent dough to make the octopus by starting at one point and rolling it into a ball, using about half the triangle.
2. Use scissors to cut the leftover triangle dough into eight strips for the arms.
3. Press two black sesame seeds into the dough ball for eyes or use an edible food marker after the dough has baked and cooled.
4. Bake according to package directions.
5. Serve with nacho cheese dip poured into small condiment cups.
6. Prepare drink according to package directions.

Teaching Tie-In

Say a prayer of thanks to God for your snack. Does anyone know what our animal pal is today? Take responses. Yes! A mimic octopus—Camo. Why do we call him Camo? Take responses. A mimic octopus is able to mimic what is around him, just like camouflage

makes you blend in! The goal for Camo the octopus is to trick other animals so they don't see him and eat him. Just as Camo tricks other animals, when people believe in many gods, they are also being tricked! People who worship false gods have been tricked into the idea that there are other gods that should be worshipped. But anything or anyone besides the one true God is just a counterfeit or fake! Let's shout together as loud as we can, "One true God." Do so.

Use the rest of your time to share the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts.



Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- If you had eight arms, what sort of things would you grab or do?
- If you had to mimic something, what would it be?
- We know there is only one true God. What is something we know is true about him?
- Where do we find out the truth about God?

Tip Corner

- You could fill the body of the octopus with a small piece of a cheese stick and serve with marinara.
- Separate the arms before baking so they don't squish together in the oven.
- Try curling the arms before baking to make it look more realistic.

Day 1 Overview

Uncovering Counterfeits

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.

Bible Passage

1 Kings 18:20-39

Memory Verse

1 Kings 18:39

Animal Pal

Camo the Mimic Octopus

Cool Contest

Mystery M&M's

Science and Crafts

Experiments: Spot the Fake! / Whose Writing Is It?
Crafts: A-maze-ing God Maze /
Master of Disguise Mimic

Treats

Mini Mimic
Look-Alike Landmarks

Games

Disguise Dash
Sneak Training 101

DAY 1

Look-Alike Landmarks

Ingredients (per child)

This is one possible list of ingredients, but tailor it to meet your group's needs.

- ☐ 4-6 wafer cookies
- ☐ 6-8 pretzel sticks
- ☐ Small handful of mini marshmallows
- ☐ 1-2 graham crackers
- ☐ 1-2 tsp. icing

Lookout Lemonade Drink

- ☐ Powdered lemonade drink mix and water, 1 quart per 5 children

Basic Supplies

- ☐ Famous Landmarks Pattern, 1 per team leader
- ☐ Baggies or plates, 1 per child
- ☐ Condiment cups, 1 per child
- ☐ Spoon
- ☐ Themed plates, cups, and napkins
- ☐ Pitchers or coolers

Prep

1. Portion your chosen ingredients out into a baggie or on a plate for each child.
2. Put 1-2 tsp. icing in condiment cups.
3. Print out the **FAMOUS LANDMARKS PATTERN** and give one to each team leader.
4. Prepare drink according to package directions.

Teaching Tie-In

Say a prayer of thanks to God for your snack. Spies often travel all over the world, so it's important to know about other countries and famous landmarks! Where is the farthest

away you've been? [Take responses](#). For our snack today, you have elements to try to make a famous landmark. I'm going to give you some time to create a landmark you have or have not seen. Go! Show the **FAMOUS LANDMARKS PATTERN** for ideas and let the kids build for a few minutes.

We know that all over the world, people have decided to pray to and worship fake, counterfeit gods. In our Bible lesson today, Elijah was teaching the people not to follow the fake god Baal. Because we trust in God and his Word, the Bible, we know that there is only one true God! Let's shout that out together! [Do so](#).

[Use the rest of your time to share the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts.](#)

Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?
- Would you rather travel in a plane, train, or car? What other vehicles could you use to get somewhere?
- Do you know anyone from a different country? What are some things they say or do that are different



from what you do? What are some things that are the same?

Tip Corner

- Look through your local grocery store for other ingredients your kids would enjoy as building materials for this snack.
- Turn this into a competition: Who can make the tallest pyramid? Whose Leaning Tower of Pisa looks the most realistic? Encourage the kids to go all out and have fun.
- Themed paperware for today could have international flags on it.

Super Simple Option

Only One—Choose various snack items and give each child just one of each. Possible choices are one chocolate chip, one cracker, one cheese stick, one piece of cereal, one pretzel stick or pretzel rod, or one chip. Tie this into the teaching today by explaining that we know there is only one true God.

Counterfeits—Purchase look-alike candies or foods, like chocolate golden coins; gummy burgers, pizza, and tacos; or even Ring Pops.

Healthy Options

Bluffer Basketballs—Transform clementines into counterfeit basketballs by using an edible black food marker to draw basketball lines on the outside.

Healthy Mini Mimic—Make a healthy version of our animal pal, the mimic octopus, by placing a dollop of hummus on a plate with two olive slices for eyes and eight pretzel sticks for arms.



One Bite World Wonders: Asia

Try just a bite or two of these snacks from Asia:

Pocky Sticks and Gimme Seaweed (not recommended for Toddlers)

Toddler Options

Check the Toddler Snacks for daily suggested snacks with Teaching Tie-Ins.

If you choose to serve other snack options included in this book, make sure they are safe for toddlers, with no choking hazards.