



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HANDBOOK

Taking the Gospel to a Forgotten People



REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (VBS) TRAINING VIDEO



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🌱 INTRO

"Welcome to the Ministry Training Series. This video is about children's ministry in the Amazon villages. This video will discuss the reality of children in the villages, how to prepare, how to set up, and how to minister during your Amazon Mission Trip. Amazon Outreach's website is a tremendous resource for you. In the Children's Handbook, you will find ideas for gospel presentations, Bible stories, crafts, and basic curriculums. Please check it out!

🌱 ABOUT THE AMAZON CHILDREN

The village children are like any other children; they love to play, sing, and color. They often come from big families and multigenerational homes. Some of them come from loving Christian homes, but the vast majority come from vulnerable situations with family conflicts and all forms of abuse. Your presence and attention towards them will likely be a highlight in their young lives. I encourage you to watch the video "[When You Came to My Village](#)" on our Amazon Outreach YouTube channel.

🌱 VBS MINISTRY

The children's ministry in the Amazon Outreach trips is called VBS, which stands for Vacation Bible School. This is when we get to invest in the spiritual lives of the children in the villages. It's a time for them to listen to age-appropriate stories from the word of God. It is time for them to feel seen, heard, and loved and learn about God's love.

VBS PREP

VBS preparation will begin long before your trip starts. It will require planning, your team's participation, and possibly the involvement of your church or school. Please check out the VBS resource tab on the Amazon Outreach website for the curriculum, crafts, and supplies we recommend. We usually plan at least 2-4 lessons. Each lesson must have a Gospel message, Bible Story, Craft, and/or Color Page. Most trips spend one day/village, requiring 2 VBS lessons, but if your trip spends 2 days in a village, you will need 4 VBS lessons.

Depending on the size of the village, you should make about 200 crafts and color pages/lessons. It's always better to have more than you need than to be short! You can give leftovers to the village school or the local pastor.

Plan a craft and/or coloring page that reinforces your story and memory verse. Sit the children in small circles. Use small baskets or frisbees to hold crayons, markers, glue sticks, etc., and place them in the middle of each circle.

To close the VBS time, have the children sit in a large circle while you give each one a piece of candy (hard candy is best). Then you are welcome to play games.

The local pastor helps find the perfect location for VBS, usually a school, community center, or under a tree. Ask the crew member for a tarp (Lana in Portuguese) for the children to sit on. You will carry your supplies to the designated spot, along with games and bubbles for playing before and afterward.

VBS SET UP

On the first day of travel, when you unpack the bags on the boat, sort out your VBS supplies by day and put them in the VBS closet. In the VBS closet, you should find a box of costumes to use when acting out the Bible stories. A Wordless Book and the Keys to Heaven should be in the closet, but you should make your own if you want to be positive you will have them. Similarly, other materials such as crayons, markers, and glue sticks should be in the closet, but always take some extras with you.

After unpacking supplies, gather the VBS team and plan the first day's curriculum for the morning and afternoon. Ensure everyone knows who will lead each part of the curriculum for each session and who will play the parts in the Bible story skit. You must do this daily so everyone knows how to prepare for the lesson. Pack each day's supplies the night before and after returning from the morning session, unpack, and repack for the afternoon session.

VBS DETAILS

Once you arrive at your location, bring fun toys (jump ropes, parachutes, hula hoops, bubbles) to engage the children and attract their attention. Connect with them as you play and get to know them by asking their names or ages. You're welcome to start when the translator gives you the OK or when you have enough children.

We usually start with introductions and kids' worship songs in Portuguese (translators will lead). While they are fresh and you have their attention, present the gospel in a fun way. In the afternoon session, you will review the gospel. Then, you can move on to storytime. Choose a narrator to read the story in English while a translator translates one or two sentences at a time.

As the translator speaks, the other team members act out the story in costumes (found in the VBS closet). Engage them in the story by asking age-appropriate questions or inviting them to act it out after the team acts out the story.

They also love coloring and doing crafts. Plan a craft and/or coloring page that reinforces your story and memory verse. Sit the children in small circles. Use small baskets or frisbees to hold crayons, markers, glue sticks, etc., and place them in the middle of each circle.

To close the VBS time, have the children sit in a large circle while you give each one a piece of candy (hard candy is best). Then you are welcome to play games.

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH THE KIDS

Sharing the gospel is the most critical aspect of VBS. It's important that you share the gospel in different ways, morning and afternoon, because you're not always going to have the same children, and that might be the only opportunity for that child to hear the gospel. You can also teach them how to grow in the Christian faith: how to pray, read their Bibles, and tell others about Jesus.

Children's ministry can be one of the most exhausting ministries, but the long-term impact is hard to measure. Over the years, children who have trusted Christ in VBS have become missionaries and serve on our boats today. Perhaps God will use you and your team to raise up another generation of missionaries on the Amazon.

- As you arrive in the village, inquire about a good spot for your team to have VBS. Most of the time, you can find a pavilion (a building with a roof but no walls) or a large shade tree. Pick something well-ventilated and out of the sun!
- Ask the boat crew for the tarps on the boat to use for sitting.
- Carry all your supplies in canvas tote bags or duffle bags. Don't unpack anything until it is ready to use.....especially the candy!
- Start the day with introductions and singing, and then move into your lesson.
- Plan who will tell the story, explain the craft, act out the skit, etc.
- Put crayons/markers loose in a canvas or large Ziploc bag. You can use frisbees from the game bag as crayons/marker holders when children are doing the craft.
- Bible verses can be printed on labels to send home with the children every day.
- Use gluesticks, as Elmer's glue does not dry in the Amazon.
- Treats are given at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions of Bible School. Find a controlled way to give the candy to the children. Form a circle or rows so that they can't leave until every child has their candy. Good ideas for treats are individually wrapped candy such as Sweet Tarts, Tootsie Rolls, Spree, lollipops, Nerds. Jolly Ranchers tend to melt and turn to syrup.
- Don't give prizes or candy to the winning team when playing games. Clap or praise them for a job well done.
- Stickers are fun anytime!
- How to cut yarn fast: Cut a piece of heavy cardboard (a box is good)
- 33 inches long x 16 inches. Wrap yarn loosely around it, the long way. When you get quite a lot of yarn on the cardboard, lay it down flat. Hold it carefully and cut at the top and bottom to make 33-inch long strands of yarn.
- If the team will be in the village for only 1 day, use the Wordless Book Story for your lessons.
- We have included a few lesson plans, Bible verses, and crafts as examples, and a place to start planning. After reviewing... you could find other easy crafts and coloring pages online. Remember that you may have approximately 60 kids in one village, and all age levels.
- Before the trip, prepare four to five stories and crafts. Also have a few object lessons, such as the Wordless Book story or The Keys to Heaven.
- As you prepare the crafts to go along, prepare 100-200 each, depending on the sizes of your villages.
- When preparing crafts, group them in bundles of 25 for easy access and counting.
- As you arrive in the village, inquire about a good spot for your team to have VBS. Most of the time, you can find a pavilion (a building with a roof but no walls) or a large shade tree. Pick something well-ventilated and out of the sun!
- Ask the boat crew for the tarps on the boat to use for sitting.

MORNING VBS LESSON PLAN

- **GAMES:** Play games with children as they arrive to attract others to join. (Bubbles, jump rope, frisbees, balls)
- **INTRODUCTIONS:** Have the U.S. and Brazilian teams introduce themselves
- **SINGING:** The team participates as translators, leads
- **GOSPEL PRESENTATION:** Wordless Book, Evangecube, New Creatures
- **PRAYER:** Lead the children in a prayer to receive Christ
- **SONG:** Get the wiggles out! Sing a song, play a clapping game, or do stretching exercises.
- **BIBLE STORY:** A team member reads the story with a translator. The other team members act out the story wearing costumes (in the VBS closet). They should listen during the English reading and act when the Portuguese is being spoken. After acting out the story, ask for children to volunteer to act it out again. Take off the costumes and dress the volunteers. The translator can tell the story again without the English reading.
- **MEMORY VERSE:** Show the translator the verse you want and let the translator teach it to the children.
- **CRAFT:** Teach the children about the craft you will teach, and then hand out the crafts.
- **COLOR PAGE:** If time permits, let children color a page that coincides with the Bible story.
- **SNACK:** Find an organized way to hand out candy. Form a line or a circle and hand out candy to each child. Tell children they can't leave until everyone receives candy.
- **GAMES:** Play games with the children. Parachute, Duck, Duck, Goose, Frisbees, Soccer, Jump Ropes, Bubbles, Relay Races

AFTERNOON VBS LESSON PLAN

- **GAMES:** Play games with children as they arrive to attract others to join. (Bubbles, jump rope, frisbees, balls)
- **INTRODUCTIONS:** Review the names of the U.S. and Brazilian team
- **SINGING:** The team participates as translators, leads
- **GOSPEL PRESENTATION:** Review the lesson you gave in the morning
- **OBJECT LESSON:** (This is another way to present the gospel) The Keys to Heaven, The Sin Solution, Candy Cane Demo, Bridge to Heaven
- **PRAYER:** Lead the children in a prayer to receive Christ
- **SONG:** Get the wiggles out! Sing a song, play a clapping game, or do stretching exercises.
- **BIBLE STORY:** A team member reads the story with a translator. The other team members act out the story wearing costumes (in the VBS closet). They should listen during the English reading and act when the Portuguese is being spoken. After acting out the story, ask for children to volunteer to act it out again. Take off the costumes and dress the volunteers. The translator can tell the story again without the English reading.
- **MEMORY VERSE:** Show the translator the verse you want and let the translator teach it to the children.
- **CRAFT:** Teach the children about the craft you will teach, and then hand out the crafts.
- **COLOR PAGE:** If time permits, let children color a page that coincides with the Bible story.
- **SNACK:** Find an organized way to hand out candy. Form a line or a circle and hand out candy to each child. Tell children they can't leave until everyone receives candy.
- **GAMES:** Play games with the children. Parachute, Duck, Duck, Goose, Frisbees, Soccer, Jump Ropes, Bubbles, Relay Races

Deus e tao Bom

Deus e tao bom, alleluia (2X) Deus e tao bom,
E tao bom pra mim

A Cada Momento

A cada momento, andando no
caminho do Senhor (2X)
Ao sentar, ao levantar, ao
dormir, ao despertar
E andando pelo caminho (2X)
Ah, ah, ah alleluia
Ah, ah, ah, Glória a Deus (2X)

Jesus Ama Cada Um

Jesus ama a cada um,
Cada um, cada um
Jesus ama a cada um
Jesus ama a todos

Ama papai
Ama mamai
Ama irmao
Pequeno irmao
Ama a te
Ama a me
Jesus ama a todos
Jesus ama a todos

Meu Coracao

Meu coracao era sujo
Mais Cristo aqui ja entrou
Com seu precioso sange
O meu pecado lavou
A Biblia assim me diz
Em ruas de ouro andarei
Pra crescer a cada dia
Minha Biblia preciso ler

God is so Good

God is so good, alleluia (2X) God is so good,
He's so good to me

Every Moment

Every moment, I'm walking
on the road with the Lord (2X)
as you sit, as you rise up, as
you sleep, as you wake up
Walking down the road (2X) Ah, ah, ah, alleluia
Ah, ah, ah, Glory to God

Jesus Loves Everyone

Jesus loves everyone,
everyone, everyone
Jesus loves everyone
Jesus loves us all

Loves your father
Loves you mother
Loves you sister
Loves your brother
He loves you
He loves me
Jesus loves us all
Jesus loves us all

My Heart (Wordless Book Song)

My heart was dark with sin
Until the Savior came in
His precious blood I know
Has washed me white as snow
And in God's Word I'm told
I'll walk the streets of gold
To grow in Christ each day
I read my Bible and pray

Com Cristo no Barco

Com Cristo no barco
Tudo vai muito bem
Vai muito bem
Vai muito bem
Com Cristo no barco
Tudo vai muito bem
E passa o tempora

E passa o temporal
Passa o temporal
Com Cristo no barco

Tudo vai muito bem
E passa o temporal
Alleluia
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Gloria ao Senhor, (2X)
Gloria ao Senhor, Alleluia (3X)
Gloria ao Senhor!

Meu Deus e tao Grande Meu

Deus e tao grande, tao forte
e capaz de tudo el epode
fazer (2X)

Os montes sao dele
Os rios sao dele
As estrelas sao dele tambem

Meu Deus e tao grande, tao
forte e capaz ed tudo ele
Pode fazer, pra voce!

With Christ in Your Vessel

With Christ in your vessel
You can smile at the storm
Smile at the storm
Smile at the storm
With Christ in your vessel
You can smile at the storm
Sailing, sailing home

Sailing, sailing home
Sailing, sailing home
With Christ in your vessel

You can smile at the storm
As we go sailing home
Hallelujah
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelu, halleluia
Praise ye the Lord (2X)
Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah (3X)
Praise ye the Lord!

My God is so Good

My God is so big, so strong
and so mighty there's nothing
my God cannot do (2X)

The mountains are His
The rivers are His
The stars are His handiwork too

My God is so big, so strong
and so mighty there's nothing
my God cannot do, for you!

Deuse Bompra Mim

Deus e bom pra mim (2X)
Contente estou, com ele vou
Deusebompramim

Eu decide

Eu decide seguira Cristo
Eu decide seguira Cristo
Eu decide seguira Cristo
Atras nao volto
Nao volto mais!

Tchi, Tchi Tchi

Bata as maos e cante ao Senhor
Aleluia, aleluia, aleluia (2X)
Aleluia, aleluia, alleluia
Amen, tchi, tchi, tchi (2X)

Estale as dedos e cante ao Senhor,
Aleluia, aleluia, alleluia (2X) Aleluia,
aleluia, aleluia
Amen, tchi, tchi, tchi (2X)

Levante as maos e cante ao Senhor
Aleluia, aleluia, aleluia (2X)
Aleluia, aleluia, aleluia
Amen, tchi, tchi, tchi (2X)

Balanca a cabeça e cante ao Senhor
Aleluia, aleluia, aleluia (2X)
Aleluia, aleluia, aleluia
Amen, tchi, tchi, tchi (2X)

God is so Good to Me

God is so good to me
I am content with him God
is so good to me

I Have Decided

I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back
No turning back!

Tchi, Tchi, Tchi

Clap you hands and sing to the Lord
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (2X)
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Amen, tchi, tchi, tchi (2X)

Snap your fingers and sing to the
Lord, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (2X)
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Amen, tchi, tchi, tchi (2X)

Raise your hands and sing to the
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (2X)
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Amen, tchi, tchi, tchi (2X)

Shake your head and sing to the Lord
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (2X)
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Amen, tchi, tchi, tchi (2X)

Fruto do Espirito

O, fruto do Espirito nao e _____

Banana

Manga

Maca

Melencia

Morango

Coco

Os frutos sao.... Amor

Alegria

Paz

Paciencia

Delicadeza

Bondade

Fidelidade

Humildade

Dominio Proprio

The Fruit of the Spirit

Oh, the fruit of the Spirit's not a ____

Banana

Mango

Apple

Watermelon

Strawberry

Coconut

The fruits are.... Love

Joy

Peace

Patience

Kindness

Goodness

Faith

Humility

Self Control



Balloons

Blow 'til they pop

Blow up and sit on them Blow the biggest

Keep them in the air

Bubbles

They gather a crowd!

Paper Cup Relay

Fill small paper cups with water. Run to a point where there are two water bottles. See which line gets the most water in the bottle in a given time.

Cotton Ball Relay

Walk with the cotton ball on the head.

Carry a cotton ball in a plastic spoon.

Two children at a time run with a cotton ball held between their open hands.

Blow cotton balls with a straw across a given area.

Beanbags

Run relays. The first child in the row drops the beanbag in the brown bag and goes back to the next child in line and slaps his hand. That child runs up and gets the beanbag out of the bag and returns it to the next child in line, etc.

Egg Toss

Fill plastic eggs with water. Two rows of children face each other and toss eggs. Step back farther after each toss (Have them throw underhand.). Jump Ropes

Play centipede relay with two or more lines. Five children or more hold onto the jump rope in a line. At the signal they run up and around a given goalpost. This can be a log or branch. When they return to the line the next group grabs onto the rope and runs.

Blanket Toss

Bounce beach balls on sheets and try to keep them on the sheets. This gets wild, so take the sheets away and just let them keep the balls in the air.

Frisbees

When not in use as crayon holders, play games with them. Don't give out too many because they "fly away", and you won't have them for crayons the next day!

Circle Games

Play "Duck, Duck, Goose." Variation: A beanbag can be dropped as the child walks around the circle, and then the chase is on.

Beach Balls

With the children in lines, they pass the beach ball over one head and between the next child's legs. Balloons can also be used.

Supplies needed for games:

- Bean bags
- Paper sacks
- Jump Ropes
- Beach balls
- Sheets
- Frisbees
- Balloons
- Small paper cups
- Cotton balls
- Bubbles

