

Why God's Wonder Lab Bible Challenge?

God's precious Word is the focus of this site, where our goals are to explore and learn the Bible Memory Verse by connecting it to the lesson's Bible story, the Take-Home Point, and our lives each day.

Bible Challenge: What Happens

God's Wonder Lab Bible Challenge is one of five rotation sites for the Teams following the Opening session. You could have as many as thirty-five people at your site during each twenty-minute rotation (five Teams, each with six children and a leader).

What Do Bible Challenge Leaders Do?

Using the Bible Challenge pages, you will share God's Word daily through a variety of activities. The Team Leaders will guide their small groups in the activities you describe.

What You Need:

Leader Resources

- Media player
- *Bible Challenge Leader Guide*
- Ask your VBS Director for access to the *Director USB* for Bible Memory Song audio and video music files and reproducible resources. The *Passalong CD and DVD* also contains the audio and video files of the Bible Memory Songs.

The Basics

- Team Supply Containers—bags or baskets for each Team to hold lesson supplies
- Team Spots—tarps or blankets to designate a location for each Team to sit
- A Bible for each group and one for yourself
- Bible Verse Code Signs for each lesson (*Director USB*); each day, duplicate and place a copy in each Team's Supply Container.
- A portable bulletin board or backdrop on which to hang the Bible Verse Code Signs
- *Bible Memory Verse Posters* for each lesson from the *Starter Kit*. These can also be found on the *Director USB*.

Getting Ready

Read the Bible stories, lessons, and Leader Devotions (*Director USB*) to understand the Scripture and daily themes.

Pray, asking God to bless your work and prepare the hearts of the families and children so God's Word would take effect in them and accomplish His purposes for them.

Recruit one or two energetic helpers to assist you at your Bible Challenge Site. They will help you set up and prepare, assist with supplies, and aid with small- and large-group activities.

Check "What You Need" and the supply list for each day to gather materials in advance.

Gather materials, decorate, and make props.

Practice the Bible Memory Songs. Learn the actions by watching the *Bible Memory Song Videos* with files from the *Director USB*, or use the *Passalong DVD* to play the videos on a DVD player.

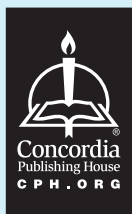
Practice the daily Take-Home Point!

Attend training. Offer to demonstrate your site activities for the Team Leaders.

Make sure to have a Bible and refer to it often as the source of the Bible Memory Verse!

Your Site Setup and Decorating

- Ideally, your site will be in a large, open space where children can move and be active as they learn the Bible Memory Verse words and complete challenges.
- Use the instructions and ideas from the *Director Guide* and the *Director USB* to decorate the site. Remember items for Team Spots and Team Supply Containers. (See "The Basics" under "What You Need.")
- Each lesson, the Bible Verse Code Signs will be hung from a portable whiteboard or bulletin board by members of each Team. You will also need a small table for the Science Challenges.
- Each lesson, ask Team Leaders to pick up and return the daily supplies.
- Post the Bible Challenge Site Sign (*Director USB*).
- Hang up the five *Bible Memory Verse Posters* around your room.



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You can contact the Vacation Bible School team at Concordia Publishing House by email at vbsteam@cph.org.



John 2:1-12

Jesus' First Miracle

You are the God who works wonders.
Psalm 77:14

Supply List

- A large glass jar filled $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way with warm water
- 3 tablespoons of vegetable oil in a clear bowl (possibly more, depending on the size of your jar)
- Liquid food coloring in 3 colors
- A fork
- The Basics (see back cover for list)

Getting Ready

1. Gather materials for each Team, using the supply list above.
2. Prepare for "A Quiet Surprise" by making sure you have enough of each supply to perform the experiment multiple times. You will need a clean jar and bowl each time you do the demonstration. Practice.
3. Practice the Bible Memory Song (located on the *Passalong CD and DVD*).
4. Set out Team Supply Containers on the Team Spots.

Bible Code

Welcome Teams and direct them to sit with their Leaders on the Team Spots.

Display the Bible Verse Code Poster for Psalm 77:14.

Demonstrate how to find the Bible verse using the code:

SAY: Welcome, scientists! We are going to discover the wonders of God's Word, the Bible, together each day. The Bible is full of stories, miracles, and promises. It is all true! It teaches us about all of the marvelous things God has done. Each day, your Team will work together to discover and learn a verse from God's Word.

- Today's verse is from the Book of Psalms. Psalms are like songs. The Book of Psalms is found right in the middle of your Bible.
- We need to find Psalm 77. Look at the large numbers—the chapter numbers—and find 77.

- Then, look through the small numbers under Psalm 77 until you see verse 14. That is our Bible verse for today! Read it with your Team.

Give Teams time to find and read Psalm 77:14.

After everyone has finished, instruct Teams to flip over the Bible Verse Code Sign and look at the words on the other side. Invite a member from each Team to bring their Bible Verse Code Sign forward.

As a large group, put the words of Psalm 77:14 in order, and place them on the backdrop or other designated area. When the code is assembled, read the verse together.

Sing the Bible Memory Verse Song

You are the God who works wonders, wonders.

You are the God who works wonders, wonders.

Psalm 77:14

Take-Home Point!

LEADER: WONDER LAB SCIENTISTS!
JESUS IS GOD AND CARES ABOUT ME!
TEAMS: JESUS IS GOD AND CARES ABOUT ME!
JESUS DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE!

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Clap three times.

Both fists in the air.

Both fists in the air.

Hands burst wide open, wave.

Science Exploration: A Quiet Surprise!

Direct the students' attention to the table where you have placed the cup of water and your other supplies.

The Bible story today told about Jesus' first miracle.

A miracle is something that seems impossible. It isn't a magic trick—it is real! A miracle is something that only God can do. When Jesus did miracles, it showed everyone that He is God. As God, Jesus cares for you and me and for all of our needs. He even blesses us with extra things we don't necessarily need—just out of His great love for us!

Perform the experiment:

1. Show the jar of water, the clear bowl containing the oil, and the food coloring.
2. Explain that you will be stirring things into the water to make a surprising mixture.
3. Put about 3–4 drops of each color (more, if you have a large jar of oil) of food coloring into the oil. Gently stir the oil until the drops break into many tiny drops. Pour that mixture into the jar of water.
4. Tell the children to watch as a quiet little fireworks show happens below the surface of the water. (As the colored drops fall, they burst and spread.)

Connect the experiment with the Bible account:

- Mary said to Jesus, "They have no wine." She simply told Him about the need. She trusted Him to do what was best. Jesus surprised the people by turning ordinary water into the best wine of all!
- There was no big announcement that a miracle was coming. It was a wonderful, quiet surprise! Jesus did what He always does as God. He used His power to care for His people.
- God takes care of you! You can tell God all about what you need, what you hope for, even what you want. He is always taking care of your needs. He knows what you need even before you ask Him! Even if you ask for the wrong things, He promises to do only what is best for you. We do not need to see the details of His plan for us. We just need to trust Him. We can just wait and watch and be surprised!

Say the Take-Home Point.



Bible Memory Verse Poster Point

Point to the *Bible Memory Verse Poster*, and discuss the following:

- Look at these ordinary water jars. The jars from our Bible reading today may have looked like these. But Jesus did something extraordinary with the water in the jars! It wasn't magic. It wasn't a trick. It was the real and certain power of God at work.
- When Jesus performed His first miracle, He showed that He was God. He took care of the needs of the people around Him. He surprised them by turning ordinary water into extraordinary wine.
- What are some ordinary ways Jesus takes care of you? There are lots of them! Did you know that He has also taken care of you in miraculous ways? He gave you life. That was a miracle! He gave you the gift of faith at your Baptism. Another miracle! He forgives your sins because of Jesus, your Savior. That's the best miracle of all!
- God took care of our biggest need of all when He sent Jesus to die on the cross for us. Our sins are paid for! What a miracle! Someday, He will surprise us when He returns to take us all to live in heaven with Him. That will be the most marvelous day ever!

Point to the poster, then read the verse together.

PRAY: Dear Jesus, / Thank You for caring for me. / It is so good to know that You are God / and You know things just for me! / In Your name I pray. / Amen.

Say the Take-Home Point, and dismiss teams.

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