



Opening & Closing

and Closing Program Leader Guide



1



God Saves Baby Moses

Exodus 1:8-14, 22;
2:1-10

2



Ruth and Naomi

Book of Ruth

3



Jesus and Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

4



Jesus Rises from the Dead

Luke 24:1-12

5



Jesus Appears to Paul

Acts 9:1-19

God finds me
when I have
troubles.

Call upon Me
in the day
of trouble;
I will
deliver you.

Psalms 50:15

God finds me
when I'm
lonely.

Fear not,
for I am
with you.

Isaiah 41:10

God finds me
when I'm
lost.

You are
precious in
My eyes . . .
and I love you.

Isaiah 43:4

God finds me
when I think
there's no hope.

You, O Lord,
are my hope,
my trust.

Psalms 71:5

God finds me,
no matter
my sin.

Christ Jesus
came into
the world to
save sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15



Lesson 1

God Saves Baby Moses

Exodus 1:8–14, 22; 2:1–10

Take-Home Point: God finds me when I have troubles.

Bible Memory Verse: Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you. Psalm 50:15

Opening

Use the Lesson 1 Opening slides, if desired.

Welcome

Play music as kids arrive.

Welcome to *Tropical Trek* Vacation Bible School! My name is [name], and I'm excited to join you for an island adventure, where we'll learn how Jesus comes to seek and to save us!

Raise your hand if you've ever been to an island. Did you know that there are hundreds of thousands of islands in the world? Most of these are uninhabited, which means no one lives on them. That makes these islands great places to go exploring, to seek and find new and wonderful things!

This week at *Tropical Trek*, we'll do some exploring too! As we dig into God's Word, we'll discover the wonderful truth that our loving God seeks, finds, and saves us, helping us through every challenge we face. Along the way, we'll encounter fun and exciting island places, from a winding river to a maze of island caves to a sleepy dormant volcano!

Are you ready to start exploring? Then let's begin our time together with prayer and a song.

Prayer

Pray the Opening Prayer (use the Opening Prayer slide) or another prayer to begin the day.

Sing

"Jesus Seeks and Finds" (Use the audio or video recording from the *Director USB* or digital content center.)

Opening Skit

Use the Opening Skit video for Lesson 1, or the skit script found in this guide.

Bible Story and Take-Home Point

Going off to explore an island on your own could bring lots of troubles. You could get lost or hurt or even run into an angry island animal! We might not have island troubles, but we all face troubles in our lives, don't we? Team Leaders, take a few minutes to circle up with your Team and talk about some of the troubles we face. After a minute or two, call their attention back to you.

Sometimes we have troubles because of things we have chosen to do, like going off on our own. But some of the troubles we have are just part of living in this world. God knows all the troubles we face, and He cares. Today we will hear about the troubles that baby Moses and God's people faced when they were living in Egypt. God found Moses in his troubles and helped him. God promises to be with us when we have troubles too!

Show the Lesson 1 Take-Home Point slide.

Our Take-Home Point for today is **GOD FINDS ME WHEN I HAVE TROUBLES**. Whenever you hear that today, you'll say, "Jesus came to seek and to save!" using these actions: **Jesus came** (point index finger to palm of each hand, then make beckoning motion) **to seek** (hold hand above eyes, looking around) **and to save** (form a cross with both forearms)!

Sing

"Jesus Seeks and Finds" and "Not Alone" as time allows.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for caring for us and helping us when we have troubles. Help us to always trust in You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Closing

Use the Lesson 1 Closing Slides, if desired.

Welcome Back

Play music as kids arrive.

Welcome back, everyone! Today we learned that God sees when we have troubles, and He cares!

Say the Take-Home Point with the actions:

SAY: GOD FINDS ME WHEN I HAVE TROUBLES.

TEAMS: JESUS CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE!

In our Bible account for today, we heard how God saw His people's troubles in Egypt. He worked through Moses' mother, his sister, and an Egyptian princess to save baby Moses' life. Years later, God worked through Moses to help free His people from slavery in Egypt.

Let's sing about our Savior, who finds us when we have troubles!

Sing

"Jesus Seeks and Finds" (Use the audio or video recording from the *Director USB* or digital content center.)

Closing Skit

Use the Closing Skit video for Lesson 1, or the skit script found in this guide.

We face many troubles in this life. God knows the troubles we face, and He promises to help us. He strengthens us and helps us through the hard times. Sometimes He works through other people who love and care for us. Most of all, He sent Jesus to deliver us from our greatest troubles: sin and death.

Review the Bible Memory Verse

Show the Bible Memory Verse slide.

Today's Bible Memory Verse reminds us to call out to God when we face troubles. God invites us to pray to Him when we have troubles, and He promises to help us. He gives us strength to endure our troubles, and He works for our good in all things.

Let's say (or sing) our Bible Memory Verse together.

Say Psalm 50:15 together or sing the Psalm 50:15 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you.
Psalm 50:15

Mission Project

Show the Mission Project Flyer and the Mission Project slide.

Our loving God sees us when we have troubles. He finds us and saves us. This is great news that needs to be shared! You can help share the Good News about Jesus, our Savior.

Our mission project helps send books about Jesus to kids so they can hear about the God who loves them.

As you are trekking around VBS this week, learning about God's love for you, I'd like you to think of other children who may not know about Jesus yet. If you have some spare coins, a week's allowance, or even a few dollars, you can bring it to church—and we will send it to help our mission project partners. When you donate to our mission project, you are helping send books about Jesus to kids like you.

Sing

"Not Alone" and "Lost and Found" as time allows.

Announcements and Reminders

- Share important information and reminders.
- Ask Team Leaders to hand out the day's *Tropical Trek Collectible* and *Early Childhood* or *Elementary Leaflet* to each child.
- Remind Team Leaders to connect with parents or guardians and make sure they sign out their kids.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for finding us when we have troubles and caring for us. Help us always to trust in You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Notes:



Opening & Closing Skits

Lesson 1

Opening

Good morning, friends! I'm Eden. Some people call me Explorer Eden. Do you know what I love doing? I love exploring anywhere and everywhere that I can see new places and discover new things. Today, I've left my friends in the expedition group behind at base camp on a nearby island so I can explore a new island on my own. This could be dangerous for a rookie adventurer, but I'm an experienced and careful guide.

Would you like to come along? Pause, then nod and gesture for them to follow. Great. Exploring is always more fun with friends. We'll leave the beach to find something interesting soon. But first, I need to know a little about you. Have any of you been to an island before? Pause. Interesting. Can you name a famous island? Pause. Good. You do know a little, and I'm here to help too.

Lift binoculars and look through them. See that? Pause. It's a river, a really peaceful winding river. Touch ear. Do you hear that? Pause. That gentle trickling sound is so relaxing. I love the sound of water in nature, don't you? Pause. It looks like the animals love it too. On an island like this, a lot of animals depend on the river. Do you know how a river helps them? The river water is very important for drinking, since the ocean water is salty. And some animals get food like fish or bugs at the river. And of course, it's great for washing and cooling off on a hot day.

You know, I'm getting pretty warm. I'm wondering if I should take a dip in the river before I continue exploring. Hmm. I'll have to decide if that's a good idea. But you have lots of things to explore at VBS. I might even join you later to listen in on your Bible Storytelling. Stories, especially true stories, are another great way to explore. Give a very big wave. Bye for now!

Closing

Cower in a defensive position at the trailhead and speak in a quiet voice. Finally, you're here! I am so glad to see you. Are you having fun? Pause. I was, but now I think it's a really good thing I decided not to take a dip in the river after all. It turns out that on this island one of the animals that uses the river is a crocodile! And it looks like he followed me back here! Do you have any ideas for what I should do? Pause and listen. Me trying to scare it sounds like a great idea, but actually, that can make crocodiles attack. But since you're out of the crocodile's range, how about you distract it by making a huge noise. Then it might go away. How about you make the strangest, scariest noise you can. Will you do that for me? Do it on the count of three. One. Two. Three. Close eyes, then open again. Look around in relief.

Thanks so much! You saw that I was in trouble and you helped save me! I'm glad to know I can depend on you. For a while there, I was feeling like baby Moses in today's Bible lesson. I was stuck with no way to help myself. But then you came along. You were a blessing sent by God to help me. Do you remember who helped baby Moses? Pause. His sister helped, and the princess helped. God worked through both of them. Why would God help Moses and me? Pause. He loves us? I think you're right.

You know, while I'm exploring, it's great to know that God sees my problems and cares about me. Do you know who else He cares about? Pause. Yup. You and everyone! I can't wait until tomorrow to explore more about the island and about how God helps us. For now, here's my best crocodile goodbye. Say Gooooooooodbye while doing a big crocodile chomp with arms. Now you try. Lead one more crocodile chomp to do together. I'll catch you crocs later! Bye!



Closing Program

Use the Closing Program slides, if desired. There are places where photos from your VBS can be inserted.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Show Closing Program title slide. Welcome everyone and introduce yourself and the pastor and/or others who will be leading the Closing Program with you.

We begin our closing celebration with prayer.

Dear God, thank You for finding and helping us in every situation in life. Help us always to trust in You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

Introduce *Tropical Trek*

Show slides with photos from your week of VBS.

As we took a tropical island trek in Vacation Bible School this week, we were reminded that Jesus came to seek and to save all people. We explored five Bible accounts from God's Holy Word that showed God's love for us and His desire to seek and find us when we need Him the most. Now, we'd like to share highlights from our VBS with all of you!

Sing

Each day of VBS began and ended with songs that remind us what our Savior, Jesus, does for us!

Show lyrics slides for "Jesus Seeks and Finds" (or one of the kids' favorite VBS songs) as kids sing.

Overview

You could choose to show additional photos from your week of VBS as you say the following:

Our small groups, or Teams, started together in the Opening, where they sang and watched skits. Then the Teams and their Team Leaders went to five sites: Storytelling, Bible Exploration, Snacks, Crafts, and Games. At each site, they heard about the many ways that Jesus loves us, finds us, and cares for us.

Mission Project

Show Mission Project slide.

Through our mission project, we gathered offerings to show the love of Jesus by providing books that tell God's

true story of salvation to children who have not yet heard it. Our donations will help boys and girls and their families have materials to learn about Jesus, our Savior. The offerings that have been given will share specially chosen Bible story books that teach about the love of Jesus.

Now, we're excited to share with you what the children have been experiencing all week at VBS!

Lesson 1: God Saves Baby Moses Bible Story

Our first Bible account comes from the book of Exodus, chapters 1 and 2. In this lesson, we learned how God saw the troubles of His people in Egypt and how He helped them. God worked through Moses' mother, his sister, and a princess to save the life of Moses. Later, God would work through Moses to lead His people out of slavery in Egypt and into the Promised Land. God promises to be with us as we face troubles in our lives too. God gives us strength to endure our troubles, and His love for us never fails.

Take-Home Point

Show Take-Home Point slide for Lesson 1.

Our Take-Home Point for Lesson 1 is **GOD FINDS ME WHEN I HAVE TROUBLES.**

Whenever we hear the Take-Home Point, we respond with "Jesus came to seek and to save!" using these actions: **Jesus came** (*point index finger to palm of each hand, then make beckoning motion*) **to seek** (*hold hand above eyes, looking around*) **and to save** (*form a cross with both forearms*)! **Let's try it together!**

SAY: GOD FINDS ME WHEN I HAVE TROUBLES.

TEAMS: JESUS CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE!

Now, let's sing together!



Theme Song Lyrics

Jesus Seeks and Finds

Jesus seeks and finds me.
Jesus came to save.
Jesus bore the cross,
But then Jesus left the grave!
Jesus seeks and finds me.
I am safe and sound—
I had been so lost,
But thanks to Jesus, I am found.

Twist and turn, up and down,
Back and forth, round and round.
Through it all, do not fear!
Jesus comes—He is here!

Jesus seeks and finds me.
Jesus came to save.
Jesus bore the cross,
But then Jesus left the grave!
Jesus seeks and finds me.
I am safe and sound—
I had been so lost,
But thanks to Jesus, I am found.

Troubles come, troubles go.
Day by day, this I know:
Jesus loves you and me.
In His grace, I am free!

Jesus seeks and finds me.
Jesus came to save.
Jesus bore the cross,
But then Jesus left the grave!
Jesus seeks and finds me.
I am safe and sound—
I had been so lost,
But thanks to Jesus, I am found. (3x)

Text: Lisa M. Clark and David Browning

Not Alone

3, 2, 1, only one—
Sometimes I'm the only one.
No one else, only me—
There is no one else I see.
(2x)

3, 2, 1, only One—
Jesus is God's only Son.
I will not be alone.
He has called me as His own!
(2x)

3, 2, 1, Jesus won!
All my worries are undone!
Jesus stays by my side.
In His love, I will abide.
(2x)

In His love, I will abide. (2x)

Text: Lisa M. Clark and David Browning

Music, Slides & Videos

Leading Music at VBS

As you lead singing in the Openings and the Closings at *Tropical Trek*, you share God's Word through energetic songs that point to Jesus, our Savior!

How Does Music Work at VBS?

Talk with your pastor, church staff, and VBS Director to determine the songs, the technology to use, and the structure for music at your VBS. The *Music Leader Guide* contains Song Lyrics, Music Scores, and helpful hints for leading music. Music Scores are also available on the *Director USB* and in the digital content center.

All new VBS Theme Songs with Song-Action Videos add fun and excitement to each day's Opening and Closing while sharing the Bible truth of each lesson. Five VBS Theme Songs, five Bible Memory Verse Songs, and Song-Action and Lyrics Videos for all can be found on the *Director USB*, in the online digital content center, and on the *Passalong Music Download Card*. Below is a list of hymn suggestions for each day.

Hymn Suggestions

Lesson 1: God Saves Baby Moses

"Entrust Your Days and Burdens" (LSB 754; OAR 285)
"From God Can Nothing Move Me" (LSB 713)

Lesson 2: Ruth and Naomi

"Children of the Heavenly Father" (LSB 725; OAR 271)
"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me" (LSB 722)

Lesson 3: Jesus and Zacchaeus

"All Depends on Our Possessing" (LSB 732; OAR 277)
"'Come, Follow Me,' The Savior Spake" (LSB 688)

Lesson 4: Jesus Rises from the Dead

"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"
(LSB 556; OAR 244)
"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"
(LSB 461; OAR 218)

Lesson 5: Jesus Appears to Paul

"When I Behold Jesus Christ" (LSB 542; OAR 238)
"What Wondrous Love Is This" (LSB 543)

PowerPoint Slides and Videos

The following PowerPoint slides and videos can be found on the *Director USB* and in the online digital content center.

- PowerPoint presentations for the Openings and the Closings and the Closing Program
- PowerPoint Song Lyrics Slides for the five Theme Songs and the five Bible Memory Verse Songs
- Song-Action Videos for the five Theme Songs and the five Bible Memory Verse Songs
- Lyrics Videos for the five Theme Songs and the five Bible Memory Verse Songs
- Skit Videos for the Openings and the Closings

The PowerPoint presentations for the Openings and Closings and the Closing Program include slides with the song lyrics.

If you choose to use the Song-Action Videos or Lyrics Videos in place of the Song Lyrics Slides, you will need to add the videos to the presentations and delete the slides with lyrics. Follow the instructions below.

How to Link Videos to PowerPoint Slides

1. **Create a folder on your computer for VBS.**
Save all VBS music videos and PowerPoints from the *Director USB* or digital content center to that folder.
2. **Open PowerPoint presentation and select song.**
Open desired PowerPoint file. Select the song's title slide. Select *Insert* and click *New Slide* to insert a blank slide after the title slide.
3. **Link desired video.**
Click on the blank slide. Under *Insert*, select *Video/Movie from File*. From your VBS folder on your computer, select the MP4 video file to insert.
4. **Click and drag corner to resize the video to fill the blank slide, if needed.**
5. **Delete the slides containing song lyrics.**
In the PowerPoint presentation, select all slides for that song (hold *Shift* while clicking to select multiple slides at once). Choose *Edit* and select *Delete Slide*.
6. **Repeat process with other videos.**



Copyright © 2026 Concordia Publishing House
3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118-3968
1-800-325-3040 • cph.org

All rights reserved. Unless specifically noted, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Concordia Publishing House.

The purchaser may copy any part of this guide for use in VBS in the year of purchase.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Manufactured in the United States of America

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