



Bible Exploration Leader Guide



1



God Saves Baby Moses

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

God finds me
when I have
troubles.

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

Psalms 50:15

2



Ruth and Naomi

Book of Ruth

God finds me
when I'm
lonely.

Fear not,
for I am
with you.

Isaiah 41:10

3



Jesus and Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

God finds me
when I'm
lost.

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

Isaiah 43:4

4



Jesus Rises from the Dead

Luke 24:1-12

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

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

Psalms 71:5

5



Jesus Appears to Paul

Acts 9:1-19

God finds me,
no matter
my sin.

Christ Jesus
came into
the world to
save sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15

Bible Exploration Leader Basics

How Does Bible Exploration Work at VBS?

One of the sites kids visit after the Opening is Bible Exploration. Kids move in Teams—groups of five or six kids with one Team Leader. Ask your Director how many Teams will visit your site each rotation and how many rotations you will do each day.

What You Do

Before VBS, do these things to get ready:

- Pray for the kids who will attend VBS. Read the five Bible accounts.
- Read through this *Bible Exploration Leader Guide*.
- Gather science demonstration supplies. Practice each science demonstration.
- Obtain a set of *Bible Story Posters* and review the discussion questions for each Bible lesson.
- Recruit one or two volunteers to help set up and clean up and to assist with the Bible Memory Verse songs and actions.
- Attend training with other volunteers. Learn to lead the call and response of the Take-Home Point.

During VBS, do these things:

- Arrive early and prepare science demonstration supplies. Replenish supplies between rotations.
- Read each day's Leader Devotion (available from your Director).
- Attend the Opening and Closing to connect with kids and families.

During each rotation, do these things:

- Welcome kids; introduce yourself and helpers.
- Give each Team Leader a Bible as Teams arrive.
- Present the Bible Memory Verse and teach the Bible Memory Verse Song.
- Do the science demonstration and share connections to the Bible account and to our lives.
- Use the *Bible Story Posters* and discussion points in the “Bible Story Review” to review the lesson. Lead the call and response of the Take-Home Point.

Role of Team Leaders

Team Leaders develop relationships with the children in their groups and work to keep them involved, focused, and connected. At Bible Exploration, they help kids find, say, and sing the Bible Memory Verse for each day, watch the science demonstration with their Team, and assist as needed.

Site Setup and Decorating

- Transforming your area into a tropical island is a breeze! Try one or more of these ideas. Use green plastic tablecloths, fabric, and backdrops to cover walls and tables. Add silk greenery or hang premade *Tropical Leaf Decorations* and *Tropical Flower Decorations*. Make a dormant volcano by covering a pile of boxes with green fabric and flowers. Create a plumeria grove by twisting craft paper into branches and adding tissue-paper flowers. Pile craft-paper boulders or drape a gray tarp over a large box to make a cave. Use a long piece of blue fabric to make a winding river leading down to the sandy canvas-tarp beach. Don't forget to use the fun images on the *Decorating Posters*!
- Set up a table for the science demonstrations. It should be low enough to allow kids to view the demonstrations and easily visible for all.
- Hang the Bible Exploration Site Sign (available on the *Decorating Posters*) near the entrance to the room.

Take-Home Point

Each day has a new Take-Home Point. You will say the Take-Home Point and Teams will respond, “**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)!

Every-Lesson Supplies

You will need the following supplies for every lesson:

- Bible for each Team per rotation and for yourself
- Bible Memory Verse Song for the lesson, either audio or video
- Digital equipment (to play audio, video, and/or slides)
- *Bible Story Poster* for the lesson

We want to know what you think!

Fill out a survey at cph.org/vbsfeedback. Thank you!



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

Saved from Troubles

Supply List

- Quart-size plastic resealable bag, one per rotation
- Several very sharp regular or colored pencils (round barrels, not flat-edged, work best)
- Sticky notes, pen
- Towel
- Water
- Every-Lesson Supplies (see page 2 of this guide)

Getting Ready

- Fill each bag with water and zip securely.
- Place supplies on a towel on the demonstration table.
- Practice the demonstration ahead of time.

Learn the Bible Memory Verse

Welcome Teams as they arrive and give each Team Leader a Bible. Show the Leaders where they should sit with their Teams.

Welcome! I am [your name] and I am so happy to be with you today for our first day of Tropical Trek! Hold up the Bible. **The Bible, God's Word for us, is packed full of promises about His love and care for us. Today's promise is from the book of Psalms. Show them how to look up Psalm 50:15. Let's learn this promise together!**

Read the verse. Explain that “deliver” means “help” and that we call on God in prayer.

Let's think of some troubles that we might have each day. Give a few examples: sickness, fear, being lonely, and so forth. While “getting in trouble” qualifies, lead the children to realize that the “day of trouble” encompasses much more!

Divide the group in half. Have the two groups face each other. Choose one volunteer to sit in between the groups.

Tell your volunteer to act out a specific time of trouble.

Have Group 1 say in unison, “Call upon Me in the day of trouble.” Have the volunteer shout, “Help!”

Have Group 2 say, “I will deliver you. Psalm 50:15,” as one of the members takes the volunteer's hand and leads him back into the group. Repeat this with several volunteers/troubles. Have the two groups switch phrases. Bring the groups back together for the demonstration while saying the verse all together.

Early Childhood Option:

If you have a group of children who cannot read, use this option to teach the Bible Memory Verse. Teach the verse in phrases, having the children echo each phrase after you say it.

Our Bible Memory Verse for today is Psalm 50:15: “Call upon Me / in the day of trouble; / I will deliver you.”

Show the verse in the Bible. **These words are from God's book, the Bible. This verse tells us that when we are sad, scared, lonely, or in any kind of trouble, God will always help us! We can call upon Him, or pray to Him, any time!**

Lead the children in acting out some troubles, calling to God, and then repeating the verse phrase by phrase.

Sing the Bible Memory Verse:

Let's sing about how God helps us in today's Bible Memory Verse Song.

Play the Bible Memory Verse Song Video for Psalm 50:15, or play the audio of the song and demonstrate the actions. You could also choose to use the Bible Memory Verse Slides. Repeat the song and actions several times.

Science Demonstration

Direct the students' attention to the demonstration table.

The Israelites, God's people, faced many troubles! They were forced to work very hard as slaves in Egypt, and the lives of their baby boys were in great danger! Our troubles are different, but we certainly have them. Let's write down a few. Ask the children for ideas. Write them down on the sticky notes and attach them to the eraser ends of the pencils.

Perform the demonstration:

1. Hold up the plastic bag filled with water. Tell the children that the bag represents our lives. Tell them you are going to poke the pencils right into the bag to show how troubles can make a real mess when they come into our lives. Act as though you are ready for a big watery spill—even though you know there will not be one!
2. Pick up a pencil. Read the troubles it represents. Poke the pencil in one side of the bag, through the water, and out the other side. Amazingly, the bag and water will remain as if still intact! Repeat with one or two more pencils.

The science behind the demonstration:

The plastic bag is made of polymers. The molecule chains of a polymer are flexible and sticky and quickly close around the pencil, forming a seal.

Connect with the Bible story:

- **God's people, the Israelites, had many troubles. What were some of them?** (living in slavery; living in a foreign land; working very hard each day under harsh conditions; having the lives of their baby boys in great danger)
- **God had promised His people He would be with them and help them. Did He keep His promise? (Yes!) Even in hard times, God never left them! God allowed difficult things to happen, but He still loved and cared for His people. Just as He rescued Moses from the water, He eventually rescued all the people out of slavery in Egypt.**
- **Troubles come into our lives every day.** Reread some of the sticky notes. **One of the biggest troubles we have is our sin. Every day we do things that are against God's plan for us. We can really make a mess of our lives.**
- **What can we do when we have troubles?** (We can call to God for help! God is always with us. He strengthens and delivers us. His promises never fail.)

- **We will always have troubles and sin** (reference the pencils in the bag), **but with Jesus, we know things will be okay! Just like the bag held the water, we know that God will always hold us even when we have troubles. He has already solved the trouble of our sin by dying on the cross and forgiving us.**

Bible Story Review

Point to the *Bible Story Poster* and discuss the following:

- **God's people were slaves in Egypt. They wondered how long it would be before God would deliver them.**
- **Baby Moses would grow up to lead God's people out of slavery. God had a plan, even in the middle of their troubles!**
- **Sometimes we may wonder if God has a plan for us. We wonder if He is keeping His promises. We become discouraged by troubles. It seems they don't end.**
- **But God's plan and timing are perfect. He is always doing what is best for us. Even when we doubt, His Word and promises are true.**
- **We call on Him and trust Him. Just like God delivered baby Moses from the river, in His perfect time and in His perfect way, God will always deliver us and help us, His children!**

Point to the Bible Memory Verse on the poster and say it together.

Then, say the Take-Home Point with the actions:

SAY: GOD FINDS ME WHEN I HAVE TROUBLES.

TEAMS: JESUS CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE!

Pray Before They Go

Lead the group in this closing prayer: **Dear God, we know we will have troubles. Thank You for promising that we can always call on You. Thank You for helping us. Thank You for forgiving us. Thank You for being with us no matter what troubles may come. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**