



Games

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.**

Psalm 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.**

Psalm 71:5

**God finds me,
no matter
my sin.**

**Christ Jesus
came into
the world to
save sinners.**

1 Timothy 1:15

Games Leader Basics

How Do Games Work at VBS?

One of the sites kids visit after the Opening is Games. 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 *Games Leader Guide*.
- Gather game supplies. Your Director may help you purchase items needed or solicit donations.
- Reflect on the points in “Connect.” These help you connect the games to the Bible account each day.
- Find a large space to play your games. An outdoor, grassy area works best, but these games can be played in a large indoor space as well.
- Recruit volunteers. The Games site is a great place for teen volunteers.
- Attend training with other volunteers. Learn to lead the call and response of the Take-Home Point.

During VBS, do these things:

- Dress for activity. Wear a VBS T-shirt, shorts or comfortable pants, and sports shoes.
- Arrive early to set up your station and your supplies. Use this *Leader Guide* to prepare. Every day, you’ll play one or two games.
- Read each day’s Leader Devotion (available from your Director).
- Attend the Opening and the Closing to connect with kids and families. Greet the kids with enthusiasm!

During each rotation, do these things:

- Welcome kids; introduce helpers and yourself.
- Introduce the game and show how to play it.
- Play!
- After playing the game, use the points in “Connect” with the whole group or print copies of them for Team Leaders to discuss with their Teams.
- Lead Teams in a call and response of the Take-Home Point for each day. You can find the Take-Home Point at the top of each lesson in this guide.

Role of Team Leaders

Team Leaders help kids understand the directions to the games, play the games with their Teams, and may discuss the “Connect” questions with their groups.

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*!
- Hang the Games Site Sign (available on the *Decorating Posters*) near the play area. Attach to poster board or foam board. Punch holes in the top; attach rope to hang from a tree, ceiling, or doorway.
- Keep a small first aid kit handy. Include adhesive bandages, disposable latex-free gloves, hand sanitizer, and instant cold packs.

Reaching All Children

Some kids may have physical or social challenges and may need adaptations to participate. Some kids may act out or refuse to participate. Reinforce kids’ positive behavior and encourage everyone to participate.

Adapting games benefits everyone. Try these ideas:

- Give directions one at a time. Show how to play!
- Praise good listening and positive behavior. Encourage each person’s strengths.
- Ask your volunteer helpers to be buddies with kids who need help or encouragement.

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*)!

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

Winding River

Supply List

- Cones or painter's tape
- 5 baskets
- 10–20 colored balls (2 colors)
- 2 sturdy plastic plates
- String & duct tape

Getting Ready

Make a wide winding “river” through the play area with cones or tape and place a few cones inside as “rocks.” Place three empty baskets at one end; at the other end, place two baskets, each holding the same number of one color of balls. Duct-tape a long string to each plate.

Welcome

Explain that today we'll be taking “babies” (balls) down the river to the baskets on the other side.

Play!

1. Divide the group into two teams and have each team stand next to a basket of balls.
2. On “Go!” the first player on each team picks up a ball from their basket, puts it on a plate on the floor, and pulls it down the river by the string. At the other side, they roll the ball from the plate into any basket and pull the plate back. Continue until all balls are in baskets. If a ball rolls off the plate, it must be put back on before continuing.
3. The team with the most balls in each basket is the winner of that basket (tied baskets don't count).

Connect

- **How did God save Moses and the Israelites?** (He sent the princess, who raised Moses. Moses grew up and led people out of slavery in Egypt.)
- **God promises to help us when we call upon Him in our troubles. How does this comfort you?**

Raging River

Supply List

- Open play area
- Cones or painter's tape
- Beach balls

Getting Ready

Mark off a long “river” with cones or tape. Mark “sidelines” several feet away from the river.

Welcome

Ask kids to share about a time they visited a river.

Play!

1. Divide the group into two teams. One team stands at one end of the river in a “conga line” (arms on shoulders). The other team takes beach balls and spreads out behind the sidelines.
2. On “Go!” the river team moves down the river together while the others roll beach balls to try and tag them. Players can move to dodge a ball but must stay connected. If a player is tagged, he or she leaves the line and squats down at the river's edge to become a rock, creating a barrier for the rolled balls. The team on the sidelines may collect stray balls but cannot roll them unless behind a sideline. When the river team reaches the end, they move back down the river to the other side.
3. Switch roles and see if the other team can save more team members.

Connect

- **The rolling balls are like troubles we face as we walk through life. When you became a rock, you helped protect your teammates from the balls.**
- **Today, we are learning how God rescued Moses and how He rescues us from our troubles when we call upon Him. Can you share a time when God helped you with a trouble? Let's pray together and thank Jesus for rescuing us!**