SAFARI EXPEDITION
Exploring God's Good Gifts

Games
Leader Guide

1	2	3	4	5
				
Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath *1 Kings 17:8–16*	**God Calls Abram** *Genesis 12:1–9*	**Jesus Welcomes the Children** *Mark 10:13–16*	**Jesus Forgives the Thief on the Cross** *Luke 23:32–43*	**An Angel Rescues Peter from Prison** *Acts 12:6–19*
God gives me food and drink.	**God gives me a house and a home.**	**God gives me family and friends.**	**God gives me forgiveness and eternal life.**	**God gives me protection from danger and evil.**
The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. *Psalm 145:15*	**For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.** *Hebrews 3:4*	**Let the children come to Me . . . for to such belongs the kingdom of God.** *Mark 10:14*	**For You, O Lord, are good and forgiving.** *Psalm 86:5*	**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.** *Psalm 46:1*

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. A grassy outdoor 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

- Kids will go wild for these *Safari Expedition* decoration ideas! Start by hanging one or more *Safari Backdrops* on the walls to set the mood. Create rolling grasslands using orange, tan, and green plastic tablecloths or fabric draped over boxes. Cut large pieces of cardboard into grassy points and paint green and brown. Scatter a few craft-paper boulders. Hang silk greenery or premade *Safari Hanging Lanterns*. Fashion a watering hole by covering a small plastic swimming pool with blue gossamer fabric. Populate the watering hole with safari animals cut from the *Decorating Posters* and attached to cardboard or foam core. And don't forget the jumbo photo-op picture in the *Decorating Posters*!
- Hang the Games site sign (available on the *Decorating Posters*) near the play area. Attach to poster board or foam core. Punch holes in the top; attach rope to hang from a tree, ceiling, or doorway.
- Keep a small first aid kit handy.

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, **"God gives good gifts!"** using these actions: **God** *(point both index fingers upward)* **gives** *(with palms up, reach forward and out with both hands)* **good** *(left hand stays out; right hand touches chin with fingertips, then extends to meet left hand)* **gifts** *(extend hands to each side)*.

We want to know what you think!

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

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Lesson 1

Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath

1 Kings 17:8–16

Take-Home Point: God gives me food and drink.

Bible Memory Verse: The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. *Psalm 145:15*

Just Add Water

Supply List

- Resealable sandwich bags
- Small colored papers (1 color per team, 5–10 papers per team)
- Water squirter/spray bottle (1 per team)
- White coffee filters (dry filters for each rotation)
- Water-resistant tape

Getting Ready

Draw a loaf of bread on each paper (3 × 3-inch sticky notes work well), making five to ten loaves per color (one color per team). Place each paper loaf into a bag and seal. Tape a coffee filter over one side of each bag, hiding the loaves completely. Tape bags, spaced out, onto a wall or surface that can be sprayed with water.

Welcome

Ask kids to name their favorite kind of bread.

Play!

1. **Today we'll combine wet and dry ingredients to make loaves of bread appear, but not like you think!**
2. Split into equal teams and assign colors.
3. On "Go!" the first player on each team aims a water squirter (set to stream, not spray) toward ONE bag and sprays the filter. If it's their team's color, they spray until it's fully wet, then pass the squirter to the next player. If not, they stop and pass the squirter immediately. The second player squirts a different bag, trying to find the team's color. The first team to fully saturate the filters over their team's colored loaves wins!

Connect

- **Was there ever a time when you were SO hungry you thought you might die?**
- **How did God provide food for the widow, her son, and Elijah? How does He provide food for you?**

Bread Bingo

Supply List

- Dry colored sponges, each cut into 6 squares (2 sponges of 1 color per team; dry sponges for each round and each rotation)
- 4 12-cup muffin tins joined with strong tape
- Serving spoons (1 per team)
- Oven mitts (1 per team)
- Bucket of water

Getting Ready

Place bucket of water at one end of play area and scatter sponge pieces at other end (12 of each team's color). Tape muffin tins together to make a 6 × 8 grid with 48 cups total; place in the middle of play area.

Welcome

Divide kids into teams of an even number of players and give each team an oven mitt and a serving spoon.

Play!

1. Have each team split into two equal lines near the muffin tins; one line faces the bucket ("wet" side) and the other faces the sponges ("dry" side).
2. On "Go!" each team simultaneously sends a player from the "dry" side to grab a sponge piece with the oven mitt and a player from the "wet" side to get a spoonful of water. Oven mitt player drops the sponge into an open space in the muffin tin (no bare hands!); spoon player pours water on sponge.
3. Continue with next players until one team has four WET sponges in a row. Have extra sponges ready for a second round. Have kids swap wet/dry sides.

Connect

- **This game combined dry sponges with water, like the widow combined flour and oil to make bread. God promised to provide. He kept His promise!**
- **Next time you eat or drink something, thank God for keeping His promises.** Thank God in prayer.

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