



VBS TEAM TRAINING GUIDE

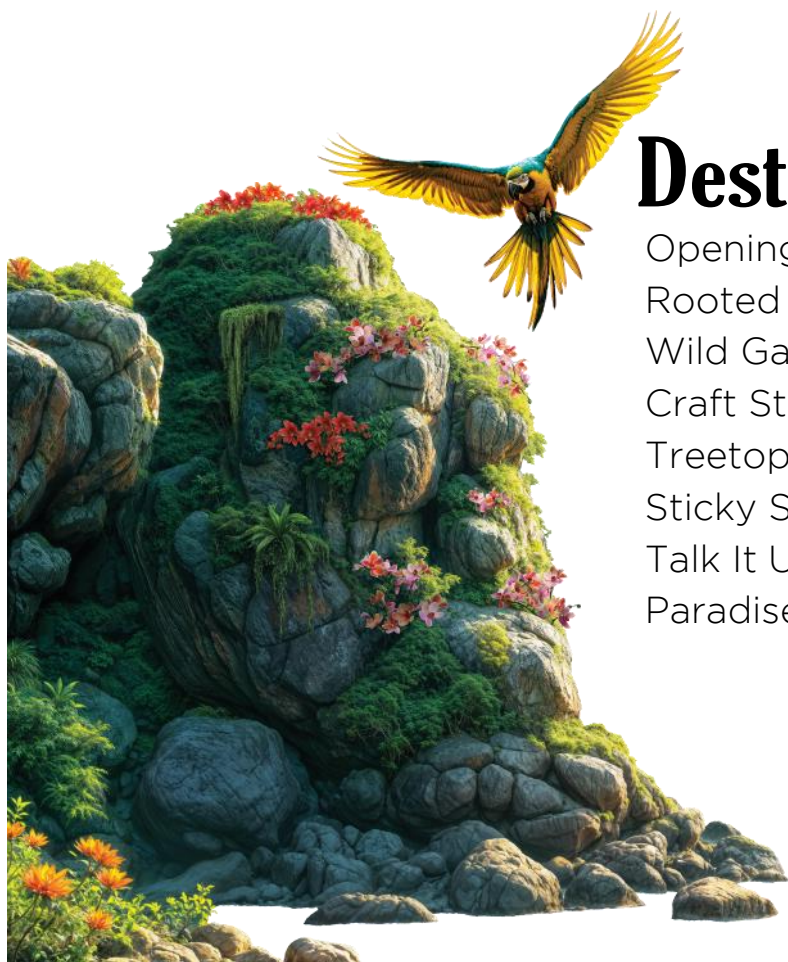
Thanks for joining the team!

We're glad you've joined us for Rainforest Falls, where we will guide kids to explore the nature of God! At Rainforest Falls, you'll root kids in the truth of the meaningful, life-changing characteristics of God—their loving Creator who knows them and loves them. You can expect a week full of faith discoveries, memorable music, and epic adventures that help kids grow in faith! We're doing more than “entertaining” kids—we have a powerful purpose at the heart of every single activity:

Helping kids experience Jesus' love.

That's why we're here...and you are an important part of making that happen. You're the hands and heart of God, showing kids His vast and unchanging love for each of them. We couldn't do this without you. What you do matters!

VBS is a week-long adventure. Each and every day it is our goal to extend Christ's love to these families and to one another. Some of these kids may never hear a kind or affirming word. Use every opportunity to speak God's love to each child...it can make an eternal difference.



Destinations:

Opening/Closing:	Sanctuary
Rooted Bible Adv:	Gym
Wild Games:	Outside (field)
Craft Station:	Outside (large tent)
Treetop Treats:	Outside (pavilion)
Sticky Scriptures:	Room 217
Talk It Up:	101, 102, 103, 104
Paradise Preschool:	Rooms 219 & 220

Safari Stations

Sticky Scriptures

is where kids dig into the daily Bible verse—with a fun video.

- *Listen carefully to any instructions
- *Encourage them to participate with the video
- *Receive Bible Buddies
- *Learn more about the daily Bible verse
- *Lead kids in discussion when called for

Talk It Up CREWS 13 - 20

is where older kids will discuss the Bible Point and complete challenges.

- *Crew leaders will oversee this area
- *It will be in a downstairs classroom
- *Help the kids work together
- *Make sure everyone gets involved

Wild Games

is where kids play team-building games. Your job at this station is to:

- *Listen carefully to instructions so you can assist your crew
- *Participate in each game in some form
- *Monitor your crew during the game
- *Review follow-up questions with crew

Treetop Treats

is where kids come to enjoy a tasty treat. Your job at this station is to:

- *Pickup your designated snack bucket
- *Find a spot outside to eat snack and sit your crew together with spacing
- *Be sure hands are clean before/after
- *Distribute snack appropriately (allergies)
- *Make sure trash is thrown away

Bible Adventures

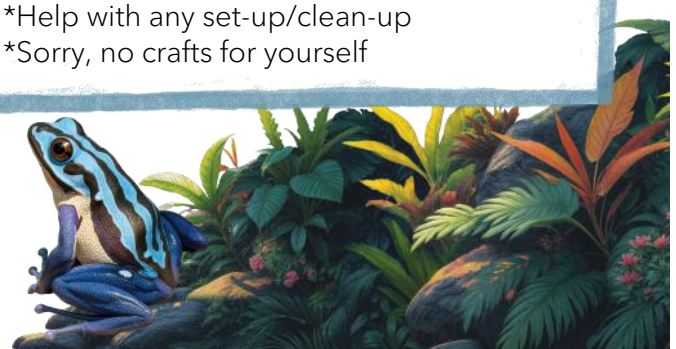
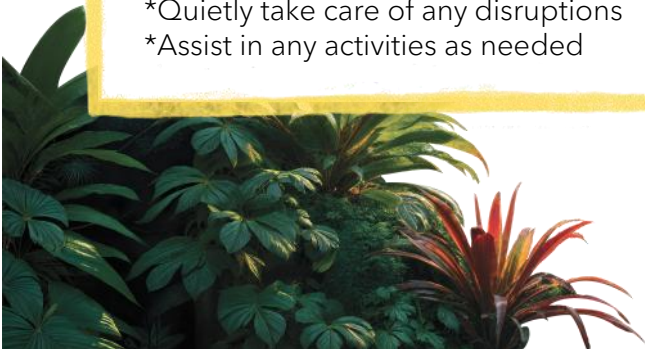
is where kids experience the Bible story. Your job at this station is to:

- *Listen carefully to any instructions
- *Monitor your crew to make sure they are listening respectfully
- *Quietly take care of any disruptions
- *Assist in any activities as needed

Craft Station

is where kids create unique crafts to take home. Your job at this station is to:

- *Listen carefully to the instructions
- *Monitor your crew during the craft
- *Help kids make their craft
- *Help with any set-up/clean-up
- *Sorry, no crafts for yourself



Everything Crews

Arrival Time: 8:15 AM --- Departure Time: 12:15 PM

**If coming for breakfast, arrival is 8 AM*

Crew Divisions

Crews are based on grade level. We are striving for crew cohesiveness and age-focused teaching. Be aware that friends may be together. Make sure everyone is involved and included.

Crew Jobs

Jobs	Duties
Jungle Guide	Leads the crew to each station and chooses action ideas for the journey (hopping, skiing, etc.)
Forest Ranger	Collects/distributes supplies and carries the Crew bag
Safari Officer	Leads or opens prayer times
Jungle Assistant	Monitors the daily schedule for what's coming next
Wildlife Technician	Leads the Crew in thanking Station leaders

Top 4 Crew Leader Jobs:

Participate:

- Sing the songs and do motions
- Play the games
- Be interactive and attentive

Support:

- Listen to each Station Leader
- Be enthusiastic
- Pray daily...it makes a difference!
- Never leave a child alone
- Buddy System for bathroom visits

Focus Attention:

- Put your cell phone away
- Learn and use the kids' names
- Use eye-to-eye contact
- We're here for the kids
- Welcome EVERY kid

Be Positive:

- Model the correct behavior (actions, language, attitude)
- Acknowledge kids' answers
- Be flexible!

One of those days...

We have all had “one of those days...”. Having crews of children, it is almost inevitable you will be stretched and tested. Be in prayer for yourself and your crew. Know that Pastor Vicky, as well as various leaders, are here to help in any situation.

If kids in my crew don't get along...

Quietly take the children aside. Acknowledge their behavior. Although they don't have to be best friends, they will be together all week and should respect one another. Remind them we should be kind to everyone.

If I have an overly active child...

Pair this child with yourself during activities. Suggest that he or she sit with you during quiet times. Try to make sitting still a game, maybe even with simple incentives (can be the line leader tomorrow, etc.). If things are still not improving, see Pastor Vicky to discuss other options to help the crew.

If my crew won't stay together...

Encourage your guide to come up with creative ways to travel. Work with your Thank You-er to come up with cheers to say or use the buddy system as you travel.

If a child won't participate...

Help shy children feel welcome by calling them by name and asking them questions directly. Respond to them with a smile. Also, utilize crew jobs to help with their involvement. Don't force participation in any activity, but definitely do your best to encourage it.

Use Positive Words...

- *Let's keep moving so we can do as many fun activities as possible.
- *Let's keep those awesome buddies in the bag so we can listen better.
- *Listen carefully so you know what to do next.
- *It's important that we all follow instructions.



Bible Buddies

There is a Bible Buddy for each day of VBS. Buddies are special animals that help reinforce the Bible Point for the day. Each day the kids will receive a key chain tag with the buddy and memory verse on it. These are so the kids can go home with something fun to keep and also have the memory verse. Kids love these! We encourage you to learn each Bible buddy so you can interact with the kids about them throughout the week.



Offering

Every year we raise money for missions. We split the sanctuary in half and do the North side versus the South side. Every morning we will tally the offering given and the winning side will be revealed during the closing session.

FOCUS: This year we are raising money for Bethel Express – a ministry located in the city of Rochester, dedicated to pouring into the lives of students through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Their programs equip kids to live spiritually complete and socially sound lives, becoming champions in society through the “S-Factor” (Spiritual Strength, Social Stability, and Scholastic Success).



BAKE SALE: On Thursday, July 30, we will host a bake sale at the closing of that day's session. All donations go toward the offering total for the week. If willing, we would love for you to bake something to be sold.

Meet the Buddies...



Buddy: Tango the Resplendent Quetzal

Bible Point: God is our creator. *"Wow, God!"*

Bible Verse: "Praise the Lord, everything He has created, everything in all His kingdom." (Psalm 103:22)

Bible Story: God creates the world. (Genesis 1)



Bible Buddy: Seymour the Glass Frog

Bible Point: God knows everything. *"Wow, God!"*

Bible Verse: "O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me." (Psalm 139:1)

Bible Story: David celebrates all God knows. (Psalm 139)



Bible Buddy: Dottie the Ocelot

Bible Point: God is our safe place. *"Wow, God!"*

Bible Verse: "Then I pray to you, O Lord. I say, 'You are my place of refuge.'" (Psalm 142:5)

Bible Story: David hides from Saul. (1 Samuel 23–24)



Bible Buddy: Tia the Giant Anteater

Bible Point: God is love. *"Wow, God!"*

Bible Verse: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever." (Psalm 136:1)

Bible Story: Jesus dies and comes to life to show God's love. (Luke 22:39–24:12)



Bible Buddy: Howie the Howler Monkey

Bible Point: God is forever. *"Wow, God!"*

Bible Verse: "But we can praise the Lord both now and forever! Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 115:18)

Bible Story: God gives John a vision of heaven. (Rev. 7:17; 21–22)



Bible Point: God knows everything. "Wow, God!"

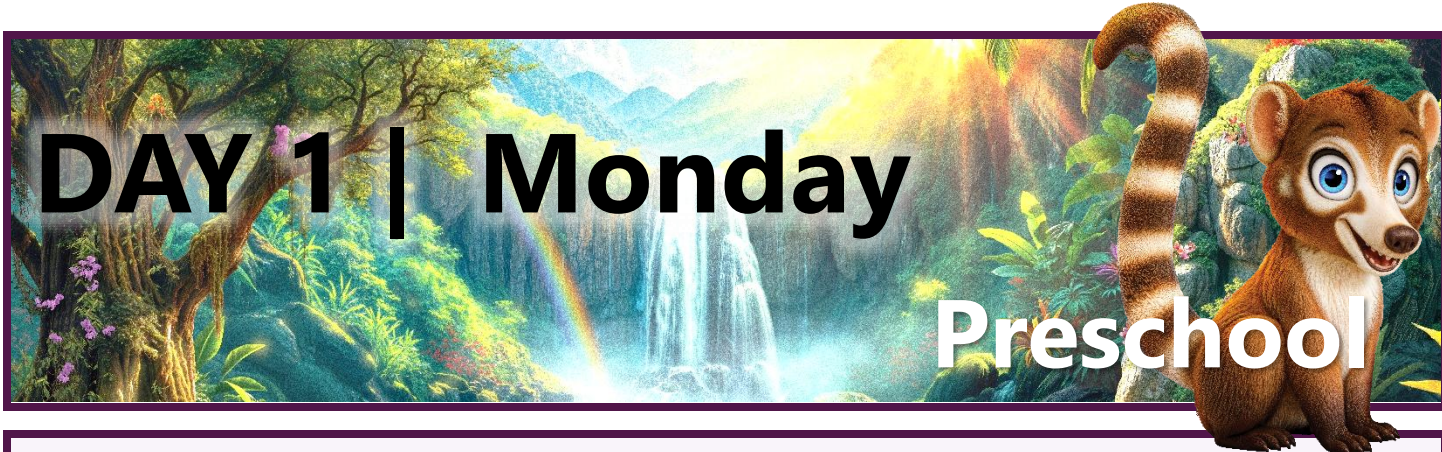
Bible Verse: "O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me." (Psalm 139:1)

Bible Story: David celebrates all God knows. (Psalm 139)

Tuesday

Tune Lagoon
Sanctuary

[illegible]



Buddy: Tango the Resplendent Quetzal

Bible Point: God is our creator. "Wow, God!"

Bible Verse: "Praise the Lord, everything He has created, everything in all His kingdom."
(Psalm 103:22)

Bible Story: God creates the world. (Genesis 1)

TIME	GROUP: RED	GROUP: GREEN	GROUP: BLUE
9:00-9:25	Tune Lagoon (Sanctuary)		
	<i>*Will be dismissed after other crews, to give time to get organized</i>		
9:35-10:00	Bible Adventures (Room 220)		
	<i>*After you will be breaking into groups. Splitting stations for smaller size classes.</i>		
10:05-10:20	Snack (Playground)	Games (Side Grass)	Craft (Room 219)
	<i>Gather your group and travel accordingly to the next "station"</i>		
10:25-10:40	Craft (Room 219)	Snack (Playground)	Games (Side Grass)
	<i>Gather your group and travel accordingly to the next "station"</i>		
10:45-11:00	Games (Side Grass)	Craft (Room 219)	Snack (Playground)
	<i>Gather your group and travel to Room 220 with all of preschool</i>		
11:05-11:25	Sticky Scriptures & Wrap Up (Room 220)		
	<i>Will meet as a group and review the day before closing</i>		
11:25-11:30	Closing together and preparing to head to Sanctuary		
	<i>Allow proper time to get to the sanctuary for closing.</i>		
11:35-12:00	Canopy Closing (Sanctuary)		



Helping Children follow Jesus



At Rainforest Falls, children don't just hear about God's love; they see it, touch it, sing it, taste it, and put it into action through God Sightings. As they travel from station to station, they go deeper into their understanding of God and God's Son, Jesus. Most important, children learn that because Jesus loves us, he came to die for our sins and make a way for us to live with God forever.

VBS (Rainforest Falls) helps children build relationships—with other children, with adults, and, most importantly, with Jesus. And since each child is at a different point in his or her relationship with Jesus, programming a "set" time for commitment may be confusing to some children. However, Day 4 of VBS intentionally lays out the gospel in Bible Adventures, and then Pastor Vicky will also follow that with a special talk during closing that day.

If you sense that a child might like to know more about what it means to follow Jesus, give this simple explanation:

God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. Jesus died and took the punishment for all the wrong things we do. But Jesus is stronger than death, and he came back to life! Jesus wants to be our friend forever. When we ask him to, he'll take away the wrong things we've done and fill our lives with his love. Jesus will always be with us and will help us make the right choices. When we believe in Jesus and ask him to forgive us, someday we'll live with him forever in heaven.

You may want to lead the child in a simple prayer inviting Jesus to be part of his or her life. You may also want to share one or more of the following Scripture passages with the child. Encourage the child to read the verses with you from his or her own Bible.

John 3:16

Romans 5:8-11

Romans 6:23

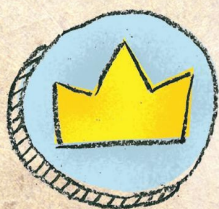
Ephesians 2:4-8

If you feel uncomfortable about talking to the child, refer him or her to Pastor Vicky or another leader who will help the child understand what it means to believe in Jesus.

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN for US

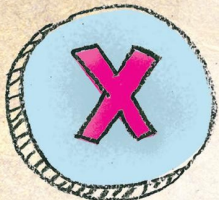
The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



GOD RULES.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything.

Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God.

Read Romans 3:23.



GOD PROVIDED.

Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve.

Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES.

Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived.

This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND.

Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.

OTHER NOTES:

- **IF IT RAINS....**
 - We will have a back up plan for snack & games, crafts will remain under the tent
 - **SHIRT SIGNING ON FRIDAY...**
 - Shirt signing does NOT take place until Friday
 - Only names can be signed on shirts—no drawing, etc.
 - We have NO extra shirts—so it is important to make sure rules are respected
 - **STAFF BREAKFAST EACH MORNING...**
 - 8 AM in The Cove
 - \$7/person for the week
 - **OUR GOAL IS TO MEET IN THE SANCTUARY BY 8:15 AM...**
 - So please come earlier if going to eat breakfast
 - **SNACK NOTES...**
 - We will have orange water coolers and cups (trash in the garbage)
 - We have options for “allergies”—not for “preferences”
 - Can utilize the playground
 - **BIBLE ADVENTURE NOTES...**
 - Find crew number, stand in that area until given directions
 - One crew leader sits in chair with the balloon...has supplies to distribute some days
 - Other crew leaders, stay attentive and help kids remain attentive (not distracting)
-

CREW TEAMS

- Greet parents each day and introduce yourself the first day
- Be attentive to kids, not just your friends
- Spread out on each end of your pews to make sure all stay within pews
- Keep a count of your kids, and do a headcount before AND at each station

CRAFTS TEAM

- Utilize back storage area, but make sure a clear path is always available
- Must put tables and supplies back in storage area at the end of each day...
- If you prefer to watch closing, discuss with team and determine if you return after
- Be ready to help set up each morning

GAMES TEAM

- Your supplies will be in Room 121
- Supplies must be cleaned up each day—and please help craft station as well!
- If you prefer to watch closing, discuss with team and determine if you return after
- Be ready to help set up each morning
- Games are not for you to play, they are for the kids

PRESCHOOL TEAM

- Your rooms are 219 & 220
- Jess Green will lead the Bible lesson, Emily Bushen will lead the craft
- Can be best to assign kids to each leader so you are assisting them with travel, activities, etc.
- Be attentive at all times, and be willing to step out of your comfort zone

Vacation Bible School

“Volunteer Code of Conduct” Agreement (COPY)

When you applied online this was on the final page of the application and you were supposed to click the link, read this, and your signature acknowledged your agreement. Here is a copy for you to bring home.

My signature shows that I have read and understand these expectations and, if under 18, my parent’s signature indicates that they have also read and understand all that will be expected of me during the VBS week.

As a volunteer for Greece Assembly’s VBS, I commit to serve the Lord through this program by doing the following:

I will participate and contribute in a positive way in all activities, as needed, until completion.

I will use language that reflects a Christian attitude. I will not use inappropriate language.

I will show respect in my words and actions toward all VBS participants, students and adults alike.

I will be an encourager, not one who ridicules, makes fun of, or criticizes.

I will set the example by listening attentively to directions and not cause any disruptions.

I will give my best to every child, keeping socializing with peers to a minimum during VBS.

I will respect church property, as well as people’s belongings, and behave in an appropriate manner.

I will do my best to deal peacefully with anger and disagreements among students or peers.

I will dress appropriately each day. Greece Assembly’s VBS dress code requires:

Wearing the VBS theme shirt throughout the week, as is (no shirt modifications).

Pants, capris, shorts* and long skirts (below knee) are permitted

**Shorts must be below finger-tip—bottom seam within 6-7 inches of your knee*

**Compression shorts are not permitted*

I will keep my cellphone out of sight unless in the case of an emergency.

I will not post any pictures on social media of students at VBS.

I will check in and check out with a coordinator each day.

I will inform the coordinator of absences, as soon as possible, to allow for proper coverage of duties.

I will cheerfully serve each day from 8:00am-12:15pm, unless other arrangements have been made.

I have read the “Volunteer Code of Conduct” and agree to abide by these guidelines. I understand that if my conduct is not in agreement with these guidelines, I will be informed of my inappropriate behavior on the day it occurs (if applicable: my parents will also be informed on that day).

If I do not change my behavior to comply with the “Volunteer Code of Conduct” listed above, I understand that I may be relieved of my role.

Thank You!

Greetings!

Thank you so much for giving of your time, energy, and talents to make VBS a huge success! Our priority is Loving God and Loving People — you bring that to life. God is glorified when we come together as the body of Christ and work toward the furtherance of His Kingdom. We pray that this week has an eternal impact on every heart that comes through our doors. It will require focus and energy, but the opportunity to serve and make a difference in the lives of these kids and their families is worth every second. Rely on God's strength each and every day, and be sure to pray! Pray for the children, their families, the volunteers, safety for all, and for a fruitful week of ministry. Let's have a great week together!!

Much love and care,

Pastor Vicky

[Concerns/Questions?](#)

Call/Text: 973-349-7974

vfleck@greeceassembly.org