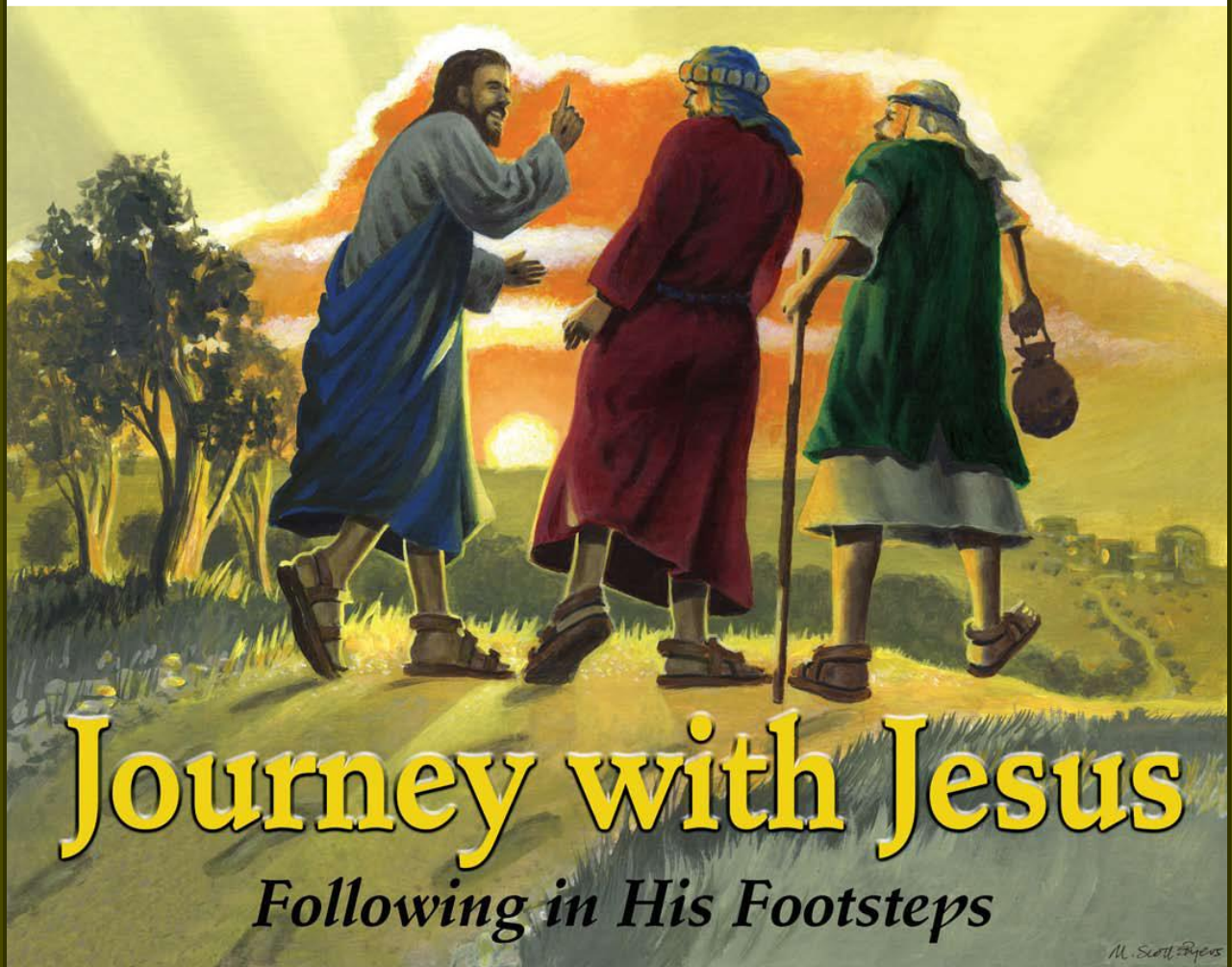


Early Childhood Bible Teacher— Middle Years (Threes and Fours)



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Vacation Bible School

Early Childhood Bible Teacher—Middle Years (Threes and Fours)

Journey with Jesus—Following in His Footsteps

Session 1:	Jesus Teaches Us to Be a Friend: <i>The Four Friends</i> (Luke 5:17-26)
Session 2:	Jesus Teaches Us About Caring for Others: <i>The Good Samaritan</i> (Luke 10:25-37)
Session 3:	Jesus Teaches Us About Loving Others: <i>Zacchaeus</i> (Luke 19:1-10)
Session 4:	Jesus Loves Us: <i>A Happy Day</i> (Luke 24:1-12; Matthew 28:1-12)
Session 5:	Jesus Teaches Us to Tell Others About Him: <i>Go and Tell Others</i> (Luke 24:13-49)

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VBS Curriculum Overview for Early Childhood Middle Years (Threes and Fours)

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
Session Title and Bible Story Jesus Teaches Us to be a Friend: <i>The Four Friends</i> (Luke 5:17-20, 24b-26)	Session Title and Bible Story Jesus Teaches Us About Caring for Others: <i>The Good Samaritan</i> (Luke 10:25-37)	Session Title and Bible Story Jesus Teaches Us About Loving Others: <i>Zacchaeus</i> (Luke 19:1-10)	Session Title and Bible Story Jesus Loves Us: <i>A Happy Day</i> (Luke 24:1-12; Matthew 28:1-12)	Session Title and Bible Story Jesus Teaches Us to Tell Others About Him: <i>Go and Tell Others</i> (Luke 24:13-49)
Bible Truth The friends brought their sick friend to Jesus.	Bible Truth The kind man helped the hurt man.	Bible Truth Jesus loved all people.	Bible Truth Jesus is alive.	Bible Truth Tell others about Jesus.
Bible Verse Phrases Jesus made the sick man well (Luke 5:24b). Jesus cares for me (1 Peter 5:7).	Bible Verse Phrases The kind person helped the man who was hurt (Luke 10:33). Jesus wants us to be kind (Luke 10:37).	Bible Verse Phrases Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house (Luke 19:6). Love one another (1 John 4:7).	Bible Verse Phrases Jesus is alive (Luke 24:6). Jesus loves us (1 John 4:19).	Bible Verse Phrases Go and tell others about Jesus (Matthew 28:19). The people were happy to see Jesus (Luke 24:34).
Learning Aim To help children know they can help their friends	Learning Aim To help children know they can be kind to each other	Learning Aim To help children know they can be friends	Learning Aim To help children know Jesus is alive	Learning Aim To help children know that we should tell others about Jesus

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
<i>Our Journey Begins</i> (Welcome Activity) Make and add biblical houses to the mural.	<i>Our Journey Begins</i> (Welcome Activity) Add footprints to the mural	<i>Our Journey Begins</i> (Welcome Activity) Add leaves to the big tree and people to the road	<i>Our Journey Begins</i> (Welcome Activity) Add paper plate flowers to the mural	<i>Our Journey Begins</i> (Welcome Activity) Add pictures of people to the road
<i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> (Bible Learning Activity Centers) Art: Draw a picture of my friend. Blocks: Lower the sick friend through the roof. Dramatic Play: Make fruit gift bags for a homebound or sick person. Missions: Learn about BOUNCE Nature: Discover items in feely box. Puzzles: Sort geometric shapes.	<i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> (Bible Learning Activity Centers) Art: Make a doctor's kit Blocks: Build a hospital Dramatic Play: Play doctor and nurse Missions: Paint a house. Nature: Discover nature items with magnifying glass Puzzles: Play a medical matching game	<i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> (Bible Learning Activity Centers) Art: Make cards for sick people Blocks: Build Zacchaeus' house Dramatic Play: Prepare for a friend's visit Missions: Build a house. Nature: Make a nature collage Puzzles: Play a leaf matching game	<i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> (Bible Learning Activity Centers) Art: Decorate a photo frame Blocks: Make paper bag rocks Dramatic Play: Make happy face puppets Missions: Hammer with golf tees on styrofoam. Nature: Press flowers between plastic plates Puzzles: Sort colored pom-poms	<i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> (Bible Learning Activity Centers) Art: Make a footprint picture Blocks: Make a block pattern path Dramatic Play: Prepare for dinner Missions: Paint with water on a cardboard box or p the church building (if possible) Nature: Make trail mix Puzzles: Match food pictures with matching paper
<i>Our Daily Bread</i> (Snack) Make a pretzel house and add a rolled fruit snack for a mat	<i>Our Daily Bread</i> (Snack) Frost happy face sugar cookies	<i>Our Daily Bread</i> (Snack) Eat apples and/or applesauce and drink water	<i>Our Daily Bread</i> (Snack) Make and eat flower-shaped flavored bread	<i>Our Daily Bread</i> (Snack) Eat trail mix
<i>Journey on Down the Road</i> (Closing Activity) Give each child a footprint and review the Bible story with a game.	<i>Journey on Down the Road</i> (Closing Activity) Give each child a footprint and review the Bible story with a game.	<i>Journey on Down the Road</i> (Closing Activity) Give each child a footprint and review the Bible story with a game.	<i>Journey on Down the Road</i> (Closing Activity) Give each child a footprint and review the Bible story with a game.	<i>Journey on Down the Road</i> (Closing Activity) Give each child a footprint and review the Bible story with a game.

How Do I Use This Guide?

Basic Information for the Teaching Team Members:

- **Unit Title:** The main focus of teaching for Vacation Bible School.
- **Session Title:** The main teaching focus for the day.
- **Bible Story and Scripture:** The Bible story for each day and the passage in the Bible from which the Bible story is taken.
- **Bible Truth:** A one-sentence statement, in language appropriate to the age group, of the main idea of the session.
- **Bible Verse Phrases:** A paraphrase of the Bible verse in language appropriate for the age of the child. Bible verses are included in each activity with suggested conversation to assist teachers in utilizing the Bible with the specific activity.
- **Learning Aim:** The outcome the teachers should teach toward and expect in the life of the child for the session, stated from the perspective of the teacher. The Learning Aim is the key-organizing element for the session. It includes what the child should feel, know and do during the session.

Preparing and Planning for the Child:

- **Study the Bible:** This section gives the teachers biblical background of the Bible story for each day. Teachers should be prepared spiritually for each day of VBS.
- **Plan with the Bible Teaching Team:** The suggestions given are practical ways you as a team member can prepare for VBS and minister to the children God has entrusted to you.
- **Gather These Resources:** This is a list of resources you will need for the VBS session.
- **Greeting the Child:** First impressions are so important! You will be reminded to greet the children on their level. This is also the time to gather needed information from the parent or caregiver.
- **Parent Letter:** The parent letter (**Resource Item 3**) is the church's link to the home. The letter can be used as the basis for a letter to each family. The letter includes information about the Bible stories and Bible verses for the week.
- **Our Journey Begins (Welcome Activity):** The children will create a mural each day as they come to VBS. Each day they will add something to the mural. A plan sheet (**Resource Item 32**) is available for teachers to use as they plan for each day.
- **Journey Through the Marketplace (Bible Learning Activities):** This section includes six activities that the teachers will use with the children during VBS simultaneously. The activities were created with the Bible story in mind. The teachers will have opportunities to apply the Bible story through Bible conversation and guidance. A plan sheet (**Resource Item 33**) is available for teachers to use as they plan for each day.
- **The Daily Bread (Snack):** Provide snacks each day for the children. Remember to provide snacks for children who may have special dietary needs. These dietary needs should be located on their registration cards.
- **Pick up Your Feet (Recreation):** All children need time to exercise their bodies in team games or free play.

- ***We Journey with Jesus (Bible Story Group Time)***: This section provides the team leader with the Bible story and group activities for application. A plan sheet (**Resource Item 34**) is available for teachers to use as they plan for each day.
- ***Journey on Down the Road (Closing Activity)***: This activity is the closing activity each day. The purpose of the activity is to review the Bible stories and Bible truths of each day. A plan sheet (**Resource Item 34**) is available for teachers to use as they plan for each day. It also includes ideas to use while waiting on parents to come.
- **Resource Materials**: Resource materials are included to aid teachers in preparing for and teaching VBS.

Suggested Schedule for Vacation Bible School

Thank you for accepting children thirty minutes prior to the start of VBS! If you are teaching teachers' children, these teachers need to be in their classroom on time. Teaching begins the moment a child arrives. Don't wait for all the children to arrive to begin teaching!

The following schedule assumes you will have three-hour sessions. Adjust the schedule to fit your particular situation.

8:30-10:00 **Greet children; begin *Our Journey Begins* Welcome Activity and *Journey Through the Marketplace* Bible Learning Activities**
(90 minutes)

9:45-10:00 **One teacher should begin checking diapers and taking children to the bathroom. The other teachers should keep the other children involved in the activities.**
(15 minutes)

10:00-10:15 **Clean-up**
(15 minutes)

10:15-10:35 **Snack Time**
(20 minutes)

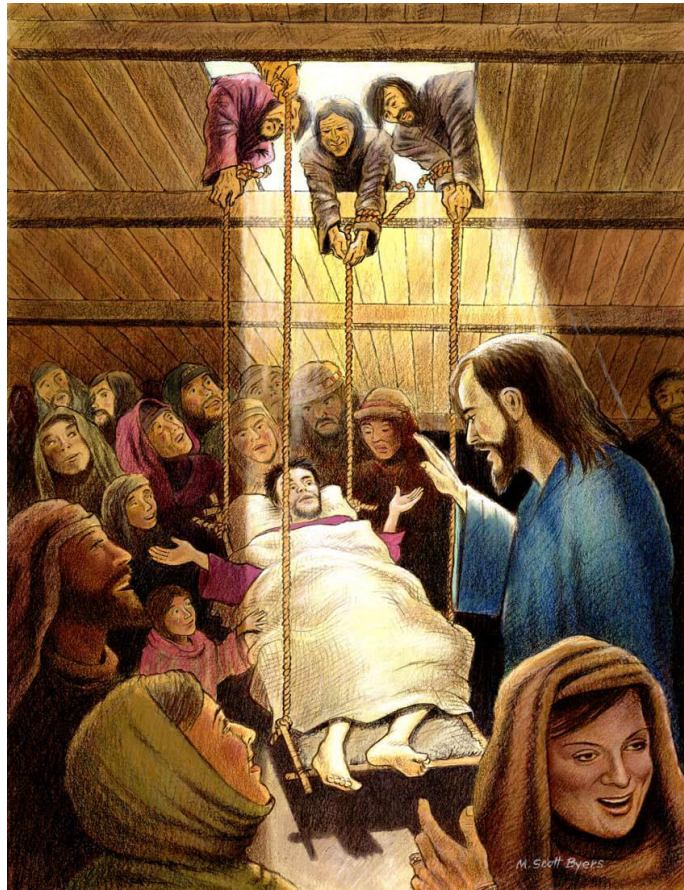
10:40-11:10 **Outside or indoor recreation time**
(30 minutes)

11:15-11:30 **Wash children's hands, change diapers, go to bathroom**
(15 minutes)

11:35-11:50 ***We Journey with Jesus* Group Time**
(15 minutes)

11:50-12:00 ***Journey on Down the Road* (Closing Activity)**
(20 minutes) **Transition games while waiting on parents to come**

Session 1



Bible Story and Scripture:

Jesus Teaches Us to Be a Friend:
The Four Friends
(Luke 5:17-20, 24b-26)

Daily Bible Verses:

Jesus made the sick man well (Luke 5:24b).
Jesus cares for me (1 Peter 5:7).

Bible Truth:

The friends brought their sick friend to Jesus.

Learning Aim:

To help children know they can help their friends

Prepare for the Session

Study the Bible

Bible Background: Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26

Capernaum, the setting for this event in Jesus' ministry, was located on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. It was the most important city in the region. Capernaum takes on added significance as Jesus' center of activities for most of his ministry. What happened at Capernaum revealed more of Jesus' nature, purpose, and love than occurrences in any other city with the exception of Jerusalem.

Although Jesus is always the focus of the gospel accounts, the encounter of Mark 2:1-12 would not have occurred had it not been for a very sick man with some very helpful friends. This event happened early in Jesus' ministry. Mark here begins a series of stories that portray the growing criticism of Jesus from the scribes and Pharisees, the teachers and keepers of the religious law. How like sinful humanity to take exception to something wonderful done for the sick man by his friends and something miraculous done to him by the Savior!

From Mark 2:3, we see that the man was in a sad condition. He was paralyzed. This man, however, had four very helpful friends (Mark 2:3-4). Friends do more than feel sorry or say kind words. They help. Because the place where Jesus was teaching the people was so crowded, these friends could not get inside the house. They had to think hard about how to help. They improvised by carrying their friend on his pallet to the roof of the house. They dug an opening through what must have been a composite of grass, plaster, tiles, and boards. Such determination demonstrated their desire to get their friend to Jesus.

Jesus rewarded their faith (2:5). He met two needs in the man. Jesus first forgave the man of his sins, the greatest sickness of all. Then Jesus healed the man of his disease, the illness everyone could see. The religious leaders accused Jesus of dishonoring God by claiming he could forgive the man's sins (2:7). They believed only God could do such a thing, and they did not believe Jesus was God's Son. But when the man got up and walked, those who saw what happened knew Jesus had real power.

The crowd, surely including the four friends, expressed amazement at what Jesus had done! What a wonderful Savior we have!

Teachers not only tell how friends act, but also they show their love and friendship for children by doing helpful things for them. At times the world may not understand, but God is pleased and others are blessed when we demonstrate our friendship in tangible ways.

Plan with the Bible Teaching Team

- Read the story of *The Four Friends* in Luke 5:17-20, 24b-26. Pray for the children you will teach in VBS.
- Copy **Resource Item 1: VBS Poster** onto 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock or enlarge to 11" x 17" size. The posters may be used to advertise VBS or placed in your church's newsletter to advertise VBS.
- Print the nametags (**Resource Item 2**) on white copy paper. Glue or tape the nametags to three to six different colors of cardstock (depending on the number of teachers in the room), leaving a border around the edge. The nametags may be used to divide the children into small groups. Laminate the nametags and use a permanent marker to write the names of the children and teachers. If laminating is not an option, copy the nametags on different colors of cardstock. Use yarn, ribbon, or a large safety pin to make the nametags wearable.
- Copy the **Parent Letter (Resource Item 3)** for the children enrolled in your class. Personalize the letter by including information about other activities planned for the week of VBS. This letter may be mailed in advance to children who have pre-registered or sent home on the first day of VBS.
- Read through all the ***Our Journey Begins (Welcome Activity)*** and ***Journey Through the Marketplace (Bible Learning Activities)*** activities and decide which team member will be responsible for planning and preparing for each activity. Make copies of the plan sheets (**Resource Items 32 and 33**) for each teacher. Prepare grocery sacks for each day and place the items for the day in each one as you gather the needed resources. You will be glad you planned ahead!
- Write all the food items on the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 4)** and post at the door.
- Prepare ahead for ***We Journey with Jesus (Group Time)*** and ***Journey on Down the Road (Closing Activity)***. Make a copy of the plan sheet (**Resource Item 34**) for the team leader or person leading group time. Gather needed items, and prepare Bible markers.
- Decide which teacher will take individual photos of each child or a group picture of your class. An individual who enjoys photography may be enlisted to take the photographs of each child or a group picture. A backdrop with a biblical scene may be used for the photographs. A schedule could be made so each class could come to a location during the week to have their pictures made. The individual photos or the group picture will be used in the art activity in Session 4.

Prepare the Room

Resources needed: Light brown butcher paper (5 pieces, each one at least 6' high by 3' wide); dark brown butcher paper (at least 15' long by 2' wide); light blue butcher paper for sky (optional); yellow and orange butcher paper for sun (optional); gray butcher paper or gray tempera paint (for teacher's use); dark brown butcher paper for large tree shape; grocery bag; masking tape (heavy duty); stand-up paper figure of Jesus (from old teaching pictures or

literature); stand-up paper figures of biblical men (Good Samaritan and the hurt man, other biblical men)

Preparation: Before the session, cut five pieces of light brown butcher paper, each piece at least 6' high by 3' wide, for each section of the mural. Tape the five sections of butcher paper side-by-side to a wall in the room. Cut a winding road (at least 2' wide) from dark brown butcher paper that will span the width of the mural. It may be easier to cut the road into five pieces and create the road section by section. The road will begin at the top of section one in Galilee. The road will go down to Jericho on section two and will remain in Jericho on section three. On section four, the road will do down to Jerusalem and finally, back up to Galilee on section five. Blue sky may be added if desired for extra color. On day four, a sun may be added. The following items may be added to the mural before VBS begins. The children will have other items that they will make and put on the mural, also. Directions for those things will be given in each day's welcome activity (*Our Journey Begins*).

Day 1: Cut 7" from the open end of a grocery bag, leaving the bottom of the bag intact. Cut a door, windows, and a hole in the top of the roof. The house should resemble the house that the four friends brought their friend to see Jesus. With the remaining portion of the bag, accordion-fold the paper to create stairs that will be attached to the side of the house. Attach the house to the first section of the mural below the road. Glue or tape the stairs. Place a stand-up figure of Jesus on the road. Each day, Jesus will move to the next section. Allow each teacher's small group to move the Jesus figure each day. Write the Bible verses along the top and bottom edge of the road.

Day 2: Write the Bible verses along the top and bottom edges of the road on section two. A figure of The Good Samaritan and the hurt man could be added to the road.

Day 3: Write the Bible verses along the top and bottom edges of the road in section three. Create a large tree with branches with the dark brown butcher paper. Make it large enough for all the children to have space to add leaves to the tree.

Day 4: Write the Bible verses along the top and bottom edges of the road in section four. Paint or create a tomb and the large stone rolled over to the side. Add a sun to the sky if desired.

Day 5: Write the Bible verses along the top and bottom edges of the road in section five. Add some biblical figures walking beside Jesus on the road.

Guiding the Session

***Note: Post the Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 4).**

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session needed	Activity Area
Resource Item 1: VBS Poster	Preparation	
Resource Item 2: Nametags	Preparation	
Resource Item 3: Parent Letter	Preparation	
Resource Item 32: Welcome Activity Plan Sheet	Preparation	
Resource Item 33: Bible Learning Activity Plan Sheet	Preparation	
Resource Item 34: Group Time and Closing Activity Plan Sheet	Preparation	
Light brown butcher paper (5 pieces, each one at least 6' high by 3' wide)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Welcome
Dark brown butcher paper (at least 15' long by 2' wide)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Welcome
Light blue butcher paper for sky (optional)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Welcome
Yellow and orange butcher paper for sun (optional)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Welcome
Gray butcher paper or gray tempera paint (for teacher's use)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Welcome
Dark brown butcher paper for large tree shape	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Welcome
Grocery bag (1)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Welcome
Stand-up paper figure of Jesus (from old teaching pictures or literature)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Welcome
Stand-up paper figures of biblical men (Good Samaritan, the hurt man, and other biblical men)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Welcome
Masking tape (heavy duty)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Welcome
Craft sticks (wide)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Group Time
Basket	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Group Time
Paper lunch sacks (1 per child)	1	Welcome
Crayons or washable markers	1	Welcome
Masking tape or stapler	1	Welcome
Bell (for signaling between activities)	1	Preparation
Resource Item 5: Friend Picture Pattern	1	Art
8 ½" x 11" white paper or cardstock (1 per child)	1	Art
Crayons and washable markers	1	Art
Bible	1	Blocks
Cardboard paper box with lid (approximately 9 ½" tall x 11 ½" wide x 24" long)	1	Blocks
Mailing tape (clear)	1	Blocks
Box cutter (for teacher's use only)	1	Blocks
Fabric (8" x 10" piece)	1	Blocks
Washable markers	1	Blocks

Twine or string (4 pieces at least 12" long)	1	Blocks
People stand-up figure	1	Blocks
Wooden blocks	1	Blocks
Scissors (child-sized)	1	Blocks
Resource Item 6: Teaching Picture: <i>The Four Friends</i>	1	Blocks
Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster	1	Dramatic Play
Gift bags (4-5, colorful and sturdy)	1	Dramatic Play
Assorted fruit	1	Dramatic Play
Tissue paper	1	Dramatic Play
Ribbon	1	Dramatic Play
Resource Item 7: Get Well Cards	1	Dramatic Play
8 ½" x 11" cardstock (different colors)	1	Dramatic Play
Crayons and washable markers	1	Dramatic Play
Stickers	1	Dramatic Play
Resource Item 8: Mission Story and Picture	1	Missions
8 ½" x 11" white copy paper	1	Missions
Resource Item 9: Prayer Reminder	1	Missions
8 ½" x 11" cardstock (white or colored)	1	Missions
Crayons and washable markers	1	Missions
Large shoebox	1	Nature
Solid colored contact or wrapping paper	1	Nature
Scissors (for teacher)	1	Nature
Tape (clear)	1	Nature
Sandpaper (4" x 4" piece)	1	Nature
Twine or rope (6" piece)	1	Nature
Toy man figurine (small)	1	Nature
Toy house or picture (small)	1	Nature
Adhesive bandage	1	Nature
Construction paper (9" x 12" assorted colors)	1	Puzzles
Scissors (for teacher)	1	Puzzles
Paper or foam bowls (4)	1	Puzzles
Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster	1	Snack
Pretzel sticks (10 per child)	1	Snack
Fruit by the FOOT® (3" per child)	1	Snack
9" paper plates, napkins, paper cups (1 per child)	1	Snack
Pitcher of water	1	Snack
Resource Item 6: Teaching Picture: <i>The Four Friends</i>	1	Group Time
Resource Item 10: Bible Verse Markers	1	Group Time
8 ½" x 11" cardstock or copy paper (3 colors)	1	Group Time
Resource Item 11: Footprints	1	Closing Activity
8 ½" x 11" white cardstock	1	Closing Activity
Feely box (from nature center)	1	Closing Activity

Greeting and Welcome

The director will greet children and parents at the door. Be sure that each child is checked in properly and is wearing a nametag (see instructions for name tags in "**Plan with the Bible Teaching Team**" section). Assign one teacher to take a digital picture of each child or a group picture of the entire class. The pictures of each child or group picture will be placed in a frame in Session 4. Guide each child to the teacher wearing the same color of nametag to begin the welcome activity. Write each child's name on a wide craft stick as they enter and place the sticks in a basket. The sticks will be used during group time each day.

Our Journey Begins (Welcome Activity)

Welcome Activity: Make and add biblical houses to the mural.

Resources needed: Paper lunch sacks (1 per child); crayons or washable markers; masking tape or stapler

Preparation: Before the session, cut 7" from the open end of the lunch sacks, leaving the bottom of the sack intact. The remainder of the sacks will be used in the session two welcome activity. Cut a door and windows in the house. Make sure the figure of Jesus is on the road in Section one.

Guide the activity: As you welcome the children and begin the activity, say, *This week, we are going to travel with Jesus along the road and meet many people! Today, he is starting out on the road in Galilee and he's going to meet four people who helped their friend who couldn't walk. I can't wait for you to meet these four friends and find out what happened to their friend when he met Jesus! Right now, we're going to make a house to go on our mural.* Give each child a "lunch sack" house. Allow the child to color the house. Write the child's name on the inside or back of the house. Tape each child's house on the mural. If all the houses won't fit on section one, put houses on section two, also.

Transition to Bible learning activities: When most of the children have completed their house and taped it on the butcher paper, ring a bell to signal clean-up time and the beginning of the Bible learning activities. The children will stay with the same teacher for the first activity. Then, the team leader will ring the bell to signal time to clean up and move to the second activity. The children need to move at the same time. Decide ahead of time the order in which the children will move to the next activity. Arrange the activities in the room to make it easy to move from one activity to the next. Continue ringing the bell until the children have been to each activity.

Journey Through the Marketplace **(Bible Learning Activities)**

Art Activity: Draw a picture of my friend.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: **Resource Item 5: Friend Picture Pattern;** 8 ½" x 11" white paper or cardstock (1 per child); crayons or washable markers

Preparation: Make a copy of the friend picture pattern (**Resource Item 5**) on white paper or cardstock for each child. Place the paper, crayons and/or markers on the art table.

Guide the activity: Explain to the children that they are going to draw a picture of their friend. Ask the child whom they would like to draw. Guide the children to add eyes, nose, mouth, ears, and hair to the circle on the paper. Then, tell them to draw their friend's arms and legs. Ask what color the child is wearing and tell them to make the shirt or dress that color. Remember, the picture may not look like a person at all when it is finished. Please don't draw for the child. Allow them to be creative. Write the child's friend's name under the picture. Write the child's name whom drew the picture on the back.

Bible story conversation: As the children are working on the pictures, say, *In today's Bible story, four friends helped their sick friend by carrying him to see Jesus. Today we are drawing a picture of our friend. Your picture will help you remember today's Bible story. It will also help you remember your friends at VBS and that friends can help.*

Block Activity: Lower the sick friend through the roof.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Cardboard paper box with lid (approximately 9 ½" tall x 11 ½" wide x 24" long); mailing tape (clear); box cutter (for teacher's use only); fabric (8" x 10" piece); washable markers; twine or string (4 pieces at least 12" long); people stand-up figure; Bible; wooden blocks; child scissors; **Resource Item 6: Teaching Picture: *The Four Friends***

Preparation: Tape the lid of the box shut. Cut an 8" x 10" hole in the top of the box. Draw a door and windows on the sides of the box. Cut small slits in the corners of the fabric. Cut the four pieces of twine or string into 12" pieces. Tie the twine or string to the four corners of the pre-cut fabric.

Guide the activity: Guide Alex to use blocks to create steps leading from the ground to the roof. Say, *We are building a house today. This is the house where the four men took their friend to see*

Jesus. Their friend could not walk. They had to carry him on a mat. They knew that Jesus would make their friend well. Lay the block figure on the fabric. Say, Let's act out the story and lower this man into the house through the roof.

Bible story conversation: Say, *A sick man needed help. His friends helped him. How can you help your friends?*

Dramatic Play Activity: Make fruit gift bags for a homebound or sick person.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: **Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster;** gift bags (4-5, colorful and sturdy); assorted fruit; tissue paper; ribbon; **Resource Item 7: Get Well Cards;** 8 ½" x 11" cardstock (different colors); crayons and washable markers; stickers

Preparation: Write the names of the fruit that the children will be touching on the allergy alert poster (**Resource Item 4**). Find names of people in your church who are homebound or sick in the hospital. Decide how many gift bags you will make. Purchase enough fruit and gift bags so each group will have an opportunity to help with the gifts. Copy the cards on different colors of cardstock. Place the crayons, markers, and stickers on the table so the children can make cards to place in the baskets.

Guide the activity: As the children come to the center, begin by telling the children about the people they are going to help. Ask the children in the group to choose a gift bag. Then, allow them to choose three or four pieces of fruit and wrap each one in tissue paper. Place the fruit in the gift bag. Then, let the children make cards to go inside the basket. The children can write their name and place stickers on the cards. Add more tissue paper to the top of the gift bag. Tie the handles with ribbon.

Bible story conversation: As the children are working, say, *The man in our story today couldn't walk. His friends helped him and took him to Jesus on a mat. Jesus made the man well. A prayer could be said for the person or persons who will receive the bags of fruit.*

Mission Story: Learn about the BOUNCE Ministry

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: **Resource Item 8: Mission Story and Picture;** 8 ½" x 11" white copy paper; **Resource Item 9: Prayer Reminder;** 8 ½" x 11" cardstock (white or colored); crayons and washable markers

Preparation: Copy the mission story and picture and the prayer reminder. Cut apart the prayer reminders.

Guide the activity: Give each child a prayer reminder and place crayons on the table. Tell the children to color the prayer reminder. Briefly explain BOUNCE in age-appropriate words and show the picture. Send the prayer reminder home.

Pray: *Dear God, please protect the students who will participate in disaster recovery this year.*

Nature Activity: Discover items in feely box.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Large shoebox; solid colored contact or wrapping paper; scissors (for teachers); tape (clear); 4" x 4" piece of sandpaper; 6" piece of twine or rope; small toy man figurine; small toy house or picture (covered in clear contact plastic); adhesive bandage

Preparation: Make a feely box by cutting a hole in the lid of the shoebox, large enough to fit a preschooler's hand. Cover the box with contact or wrapping paper. Place the sandpaper, twine or rope, man figurine, toy house or picture of a house (covered in clear contact plastic), and adhesive bandage inside the box.

Guide the activity: Show the children all the items that will be placed in the box. Talk about each one and relate each item to the Bible story. Place all the items into the box and close the lid. Guide the children to take turns reaching into the feely box without looking. Ask them to choose one of the items to hold in their hand and feel, leaving their hand inside the box. Ask the child to guess what the item is or describe the item to his friends. Ask the child to take the item out of the box to see if they were correct.

Bible story conversation: As a child names each item, relate it back to the Bible story by using the comments below:

- Sandpaper: *Four friends walked along a sandy road to take their sick friend to see Jesus. They knew that only Jesus could make him well.*
- Twine or rope: *The house was crowded so the four friends lowered their sick friend through a hole in the roof. They might have used twine or rope like this, to lower their friend's mat into the house.*
- Man figurine: *Four friends helped their sick friend by carrying him to see Jesus. The Bible says that friends can help.*
- Toy house or picture of a house: *The house was very crowded with people. How did the four friends get their sick friend inside?*
- Adhesive bandage: *The man in our story was very sick. A bandage could not help him. Only Jesus could make him well.*

Puzzle Activity: Sort geometric shapes.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Construction paper (9" x 12" assorted colors); scissors (for teacher); paper or foam bowls (4)

Preparation: Prior to the session, draw geometric shapes on construction paper such as squares, triangles, circles, and rectangles on construction paper. Draw at least ten of each shape. Laminate the construction paper and then cut the shapes apart.

Guide the activity: Guide the children as they sort the shapes and place them in the bowls.

Bible story conversation: Say, *We are working together to sort these shapes. The four men who helped their friend had to work together to carry their friend to Jesus. It is fun to work together to help someone else.*

Our Daily Bread
(Snack Time)

Snack: Make a pretzel house and add a rolled fruit snack for a mat

Resources needed: **Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster;** pretzel sticks (10 per child); Fruit by the FOOT® (3" per child); 9" paper plates, napkins, and paper cups; pitcher of water

Preparation: Make a copy of the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 4)** and write the foods on the poster. Place the poster by the door. Place ten pretzel sticks on each plate, cut the fruit roll into 3" pieces for the mat, and pour water into cups.

Guide the activity: Invite the children to take the pretzel sticks and design the outline of a house, forming walls and a flat roof. Then instruct them to lay the fruit snack piece between the walls of the pretzel house as a mat. Tell the children that they can eat their house and mat after building!

Bible story conversation: Before the children begin making their house, say a thank you prayer for the food. As the children make their pretzel house, say, *Jesus loved going to visit people in their homes. The friends helped their sick friend get close to Jesus by lowering him down from the roof on his mat. Do you think Jesus was surprised to see him on his mat? You can be a good friend by helping others.*

Clean-up Time: Ring the bell to signal clean-up time. Give the groups five to seven minutes to

transition to group time.

Transition to Group Time: Begin singing, "This Is the Way We Help Our Friends"¹ (Tune: Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush):

This is the way we help our friends,
Help our friends, help our friends.
This is the way we help our friends,
We can help our friends.

Encourage the children to help in the clean-up process as you sing the song. As the children finish, ask them to follow behind you and lead them to the group time area. Ask them to find a chair and be seated.

We Journey with Jesus **(Bible Story Group Time)**

Resources needed: Resource Item 6: Teaching Picture: *The Four Friends*; Resource Item 10: Bible Verse Markers; 8 ½" x 11" cardstock or copy paper (3 colors); basket; craft sticks

Preparation: Print the Bible verse markers (**Resource Item 10**) on three colors of cardstock or copy paper. Cut the verses apart. Place them in the Bible at the correct references. Make one verse per child. Place the craft sticks with the children's names in the basket. You will use the basket and craft sticks each day in group time.

Getting started: Say, *Today, we have talked about friends.* Go around the circle and let each child name a friend. *Listen to our Bible story about four friends* (hold up four fingers and count them).

Tell the Bible story: Open your Bible to Luke 5:17-20, 24b-26 and tell the following story in your own words.

Jesus Teaches Us to Be a Friend: *The Four Friends* **Luke 5:17-20, 24b-26**

There was a sick man who could not walk. His friends wanted him to see Jesus. They heard that Jesus could make sick people well. Since the man could not walk, the friends carried the man on his mat. They walked down the street to the house where Jesus was telling the people how much God cared for them.

¹ Words by Debbie Stevens.

There were many people in the yard and in the house listening to Jesus. It was too crowded for anyone else to go in the house. The friends did not think they would be able to get the sick man to Jesus.

The friends had an idea! They cut a hole in the roof of the house. Holding on to the mat, they let the sick man down through the hole in the roof. Now the sick man was lying on the floor right in front of Jesus. Jesus told the man to get up and walk. All the people in the house were happy because Jesus healed the man. They thanked God.

Review the Bible story and read Bible verses: Show the teaching picture of the four friends (**Resource Item 6**). Ask, *How many friends brought the man to Jesus? Did Jesus help the man to walk?* Choose a craft stick from the basket. Invite the child to select a Bible verse marker (**Resource Item 10**) from the Bible. Whisper the Bible verse to the child and prompt the child to "read" it to the group. Ask the group to repeat the Bible verse. Continue pulling craft sticks until each child has a Bible verse.

Make life application: Say, *Jesus wants us to help our friends just like the men in the Bible helped their friend.*

Pray: *Thank you, God, for our friends. Help us to be kind to our friends.*

Journey On Down the Road **(Closing Activity)**

Resources needed: **Resource Item 11: Footprints;** 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock; feely box (from nature center)

Preparation: Copy the footprints on 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock. Cut out the footprints. Gather the feely box with all the items to review the story.

Guide the activity: Show one of the footprints to the children and read the statement and question. Call on a child to answer the question. Say, *When you get home, you need to ask your mom or dad to read the words on the footprint. Then you can tell them the answer!* Place a footprint with the child's things.

Closing activity: As you wait on a parent to come, choose a stick and have the child pull something out of the feely box. Ask the child about that item and how it relates to the story.

Session 2



Bible Story and Scripture:

Jesus Teaches Us About Caring for Others:
The Good Samaritan
(Luke 10:25-37)

Daily Bible Verses:

The kind person helped the man who was hurt (Luke 10:33).
Jesus wants us to be kind (Luke 10:37).

Bible Truth:

The kind man helped the hurt man.

Learning Aim:

To help children know they can be kind to each other

Prepare for the Session

Study the Bible

Bible Background: Luke 10:25-37

The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches that God wants people to be kind to one another. Jesus told the parable "on one occasion" to respond to a question asked by an unnamed "expert in the law" (Luke 10:25).

The "expert in the law" had been tested by Jesus and sought to deflect some of his embarrassment by asking Jesus to define a neighbor. For the "expert in the law," a neighbor was always a Jew, never a non-Jew. The Jewish religious leaders asked such questions to limit the extent of their responsibility. The idea was that if they were able to limit who their neighbors were, then they could reduce their responsibility. Instead of defining neighbor, however, Jesus told this parable. The parable answers the question, *What does it mean to behave like a neighbor?*

Jesus placed the setting of the parable on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Robbers frequently attacked travelers on this road because of its many hiding places and rugged terrain.

Bandits robbed a traveler, beat him up, and left him for dead. Two Jewish religious leaders passed by the man as they traveled. The phrase "going down" (10:31) was the general way of describing traveling from Jerusalem. It also may imply that the two religious leaders were on their way home to Jericho after completing their time of service in the temple.

A despised Samaritan traveler saw the man, felt compassion for him, stopped, bandaged the wounds, and took him to an inn for further care. When the Samaritan departed the next morning, he left the innkeeper with additional funds to provide further care. The fact that the person who demonstrated kindness was a Samaritan heightened the contrast in the parable. Two respected religious people had failed to help, but a person they despised, a Samaritan, did stop and help the hurt man.

The teaching of this parable is clear: be kind to others. As teachers, we need to cultivate an attitude of compassion to those who are hurting. We need to expand the circle of our concern and get involved in ministering to the needs of others. Many people are hurting. Let's not set limits to our willingness to help others in Jesus' name.

Plan with the Bible Teaching Team

- Read the story of *The Good Samaritan* in Luke 10:25-37. Pray as you prepare to share the Bible story with the children.
- Send home the **Parent Letter (Resource Item 3)** to new children today.

- Read through all the *Our Journey Begins*, *Journey Through the Marketplace*, and *Journey on Down the Road* activities to make sure you have everything you need for day two. It's better to know ahead of time rather than when you arrive at VBS!
- Write all the food and nature items on the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 4)** and post by the door.
- Prepare ahead for *We Journey with Jesus* group time. There are items to gather and Bible markers to prepare.
- Continue taking individual photographs of each child or a group picture of the children and the teachers. The pictures should be printed after session two. The pictures should be inserted into the frames before session four.
- Prepare nametags for new children and write their names on a craft stick for the Bible verse activity in group time.

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session needed	Activity Area
Cafeteria tray or piece of sturdy cardboard (at least 8" x 10")	2	Welcome
Remaining pieces of lunch sacks (from session 1)	2	Welcome
Scissors (child-sized)	2	Welcome
Pencils or markers	2	Welcome
Tape or glue sticks	2	Welcome
12" x 18" black construction paper	2	Art
Crayon or gel pen (white)	2	Art
Glue sticks	2	Art
Adhesive bandages	2	Art
Cotton swabs	2	Art
Tongue depressors	2	Art
Velcro®	2	Art
Cardboard blocks	2	Blocks
Transportation toys such as an ambulance, truck, plane, and boat	2	Blocks
Pictures of medical helpers and vehicles	2	Blocks
Toy doctor's kit (2)	2	Dramatic Play
First aid supplies such as adhesive bandages, ace bandages, strips of gauze or muslin	2	Dramatic Play
Dress-up clothes for doctors and nurses	2	Dramatic Play
Resource Item 12: Mission Story and Picture	2	Missions
8 ½" x 11" white copy paper	2	Missions

12" x 18" construction paper	2	Missions
Tempera paint (2 colors)	2	Missions
Paint rollers (small size)	2	Missions
Painting easel	2	Missions
Painting smocks	2	Missions
Optional idea: large cardboard box	2	Missions
Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster	2	Nature
Magnifying glasses (3 or 4)	2	Nature
Assorted nature items such as, rocks, tree limbs, leaves	2	Nature
White or light colored poster board	2	Puzzles
Doctor kit items, such as adhesive bandages (different sizes), thermometer, tongue depressor, stethoscope, cotton swab, and other related items	2	Puzzles
Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster	2	Snack
Store bought sugar cookie dough or pre-made cookies (round)	2	Snack
Tub or tube frosting for decorating cookies (1 tube per table)	2	Snack
Craft sticks	2	Snack
String fruit flavored candy, small marshmallows, raisins and chocolate coated candy pieces	2	Snack
Small paper plates (2 per child) and napkins	2	Snack
Snack-size zipper bags (1 per child)	2	Snack
Paper cups and pitcher of water	2	Snack
Resource Item 13: Teaching Picture: <i>The Good Samaritan</i>	2	Group Time
Resource Item 14: Bible Verse Markers	2	Group Time
8 ½" x 11" cardstock or copy paper (3 colors)	2	Group Time
Basket and craft sticks (from session 1)	2	Group Time
Resource Item 15: Footprints	2	Closing
8 ½" x 11" white cardstock	2	Closing
Bandage matching game (from puzzle center)	2	Closing
Gift bag (small)	2	Closing

Greeting and Welcome

The director will greet children and parents at the door. Be sure that each child is checked in properly and is wearing a nametag (see instructions for name tags in "**Plan with the Bible Teaching Team**" section). Make nametags for new children. Guide the child to the teacher wearing the same color of nametag to begin the welcome activity and introduce them to the teacher. Continue taking digital pictures of each child or a group picture of the entire class. The pictures of each child or group picture will be placed in a frame in Session 4. Write new children's name on a craft stick as they enter and place the sticks in the basket. The children will start with the same teacher each day.

Our Journey Begins **(Welcome Activity)**

Welcome Activity: Add footprints and rocks to the mural.

Resources needed: Cafeteria tray or piece of sturdy cardboard (at least 8" x 10"); remaining pieces of lunch sacks (from session 1); scissors (child-sized); pencils or markers; tape or glue sticks

Preparation: Before the session, cut the remaining pieces of lunch sacks in half. The child will use the piece to make a foot or shoe print and a rock. Place the markers and pencils in each group to draw around one shoe print of each child.

Guide the activity: A different small group can move the Jesus figure to the second section. As you welcome the children and begin the activity, say, *Today, Jesus tells us a story about a kind man who helped someone on a road. He was hurt very badly. We will learn more in our Bible story today!* Help the child place the lunch sack piece on a tray or large piece of cardboard. Show the child how to place his or her shoe at one end of the paper. Draw around the child's shoe with the pencil or marker. Cut the remaining piece of the sack off before allowing the child to cut out his or her shoe print. Younger children may need help in cutting out the shoe print. Write the child's name on the shoe print. After the child has cut out the shoe print, give each child the remaining piece of the sack and guide him or her to wad up the paper to create rocks to go around the edge of the road. Tape or glue the shoe prints beginning at the session one mural. Place the shoe prints along the road on each section. Then, glue or tape the rocks along the road on session one and session two.

Transition to Bible learning activities: When most of the children have completed the welcome activity, ring the bell to signal clean-up time and the beginning of the Bible learning activities. Also, ring the bell to signal the time to move from one activity to the next activity. Continue doing this until the children have been to each activity.

Journey Through the Marketplace **(Bible Learning Activities)**

Art Activity: Make a doctor's kit.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: 12" x 18" black construction paper; white crayon or gel pen; glue sticks; adhesive bandages; cotton swabs; tongue depressors; Velcro®

Preparation: Fold the paper in half. Trace around a doctor's kit including the handle, with the straight edge of the kit on the fold. Cut out the kit leaving the fold uncut. On the front of the kit, write, "Thank you, God, for doctors and nurses." Place the medical supplies, paper, and glue sticks on the table or floor.

Guide the activity: Talk about each item as the children glue them on the inside of their doctor's kit. Allow the children to place a small piece of Velcro® at the top of the kit to allow for closing.

Bible story conversation: As the children make their doctor's kit, say, *Thank you, God, for our doctors and nurses. They help us when we are hurt or sick. We can help our friends when they get hurt. Jesus wants us to be kind.*

Block Activity: Build a hospital.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Cardboard blocks; transportation toys such as, ambulance, truck, plane, and boat; pictures of medical helpers and vehicles

Preparation: Place the transportation toys and the pictures in the block center.

Guide the activity: Talk about the pictures with Logan and Larissa. Say, *People must go to the hospital when they are very sick. Many times they need help getting to the hospital. The people in this picture are people who help our friends get to the hospital when they cannot drive a car.* Encourage the children to build a road with the blocks and take a sick person to the hospital.

Bible story conversation: Say, *There was a man in the Bible who helped a hurt man. He was very kind. Jesus wants us to be kind and help those who are sick, also.*

Dramatic Play Activity: Play doctor and nurse.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Toy doctor's kit (2); first aid supplies such as adhesive bandages, ace bandages, strips of gauze or muslin; dress-up clothes for doctors and nurses

Preparation: Tear strips of gauze or muslin. Place the doctor's kit, first-aid supplies, and dress-up clothes in the dramatic play center.

Guide the activity: Guide the children to play as if there is a medical emergency. Allow them to take turns placing bandages on each other. Show them how to wrap the gauze around a friend's

arm or leg. Remind the children that taking care of people when they are hurt is one way to take care of their friends.

Bible story conversation: As the children play, find opportunities to compliment them on helping their "hurt" friend. Say, *In today's Bible story, a kind man helped the hurt man. The Bible says that Jesus wants us to be kind.*

Mission Activity: Paint a house and hear another Bounce Story

Resources needed: **Resource Item 12: Mission Story and Picture;** 8 ½" x 11" white copy paper; 12" x 18" construction paper (white) or a large cardboard box; tempera paint (2 colors); cafeteria-type tray; paint rollers (small size); painting easel; painting smocks

Preparation: Make a copy of the mission story and picture. Draw a simple house shape on the construction paper to fill the entire space. Put a small amount of paint onto a tray. Spread it out so the paint will be thin on the tray. Place the paper on the easel so the child can paint the house. Or, draw large house shapes on all sides of a big cardboard box. Place the box on a drop cloth or take the box outside for painting. The children can paint with the paint or water.

Guide the activity: Assist the children as they paint. Only two children should paint at a time so the activity can be supervised closely. Tell age-appropriate parts of the mission story as the children paint. Show the picture after telling the story.

Prayer: Pray for Rylan and his family.

Nature Activity: Discover nature items with magnifying glasses.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: **Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster;** magnifying glasses (3 or 4); assorted nature items such as, rocks, tree limbs, and leaves

Preparation: Write the nature items on the allergy alert poster and post by the door. Add the magnifying glasses and nature items to the nature center.

Guide the activity: Guide the children to use the magnifying glasses to look at the details of their own skin, hair, and fingernails. Encourage them to look at a friend's skin, hair, and fingernails, as well. Then, encourage children to use the magnifying glasses to look at the nature items.

Bible story conversation: Comment, *God made us special. God made our skin and our hair. He even made our fingernails. In today's story, a man was hurt. His skin was cut and needed bandages. The Bible says that the kind person helped the man who was hurt.*

Puzzle and Manipulative Center: Play a medical matching game.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: White or light colored poster board; doctor kit items, such as, adhesive bandages (different sizes), thermometer, tongue depressor, stethoscope, cotton swab, and other related items

Preparation: Trace around doctor kit items on the poster board. Place them in a basket or in the doctor's kit.

Guide the activity: As the children remove the items, guide them to find the matching item on the poster board.

Bible story conversation: As Jeremy finds the shape of the bandage on the poster board, say, *Jeremy, does mommy put a bandage on your knee when you fall down? The Bible tells us about a kind person who put bandages on the hurt man.*

Our Daily Bread **(Snack Time)**

Snack: Make happy face sugar cookies.

Resources needed: Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster; store bought sugar cookie dough or pre-made cookies (round); tub or tube frosting for decorating (one tube per table); craft sticks; string fruit flavored candy, small marshmallows, raisins and chocolate coated candy pieces; small paper plates (2 per child); snack-size zipper bags (1 per child); napkins; paper cups; pitcher of water

Preparation: On the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 4)**, list the items that will be eaten. Before VBS, bake the sugar cookie dough in circle shapes as directed on the package or make round sugar cookies. Cut pieces of string fruit flavored candy or cut small colored marshmallows in half for "happy face" smiles. Place all the items in snack-size zipper bags for each child. If a tub of frosting is used, place a small amount of frosting on the child's plate and give them a craft stick. They will only use the frosting to stick the eyes, nose, and smiley face on the cookie. If using tubes of frosting, you will need one tube of frosting per table.

Guide the activity: Instruct the children to make a happy face on their sugar cookie by squeezing or dabbing the frosting on the cookie and adding the candy for a smile, eyes, and nose.

Bible story conversation: As the children enjoy decorating their cookie, say, *Jesus told a story about a man who was hurt. Another man stopped to help him. I know that made the hurt man feel better. Do you think that made him happy? The nice man shared his love with the hurt man.*

Clean-up Time: Ring the bell to signal clean-up time. Give the groups five to seven minutes to transition to the closing activity.

Transition to Group Time: Walk around the room with a doctor's bag as you encourage the children to help in the clean-up process. As the children finish, ask them to follow you to the group time area.

We Journey with Jesus **(Bible Story Group Time)**

Resources needed: Resource Item 13: Teaching Picture: *The Good Samaritan*; Resource Item 14: Bible Verse Markers; 8 ½" x 11" cardstock or copy paper (3 colors); basket and craft sticks (from session 1)

Preparation: Print the Bible verse markers (Resource Item 14) on three colors of cardstock or copy paper. Cut the verses apart. Place them in the Bible at the correct references. Make one verse per child. Place the craft sticks with the children's names in the basket.

Getting started: As the children sit down, use the poem to help them focus: *Open, shut them; Open, shut them. Give a little clap. Open, shut them; Open, shut them; Put them in your lap.* Teachers may use hand motions that correspond to the words in the poem. After repeating several times, the children will naturally follow your hand motions:

Tell the Bible story: Tell the story in your own words instead of reading it. Make eye contact with the children as you tell the story.

Jesus Teaches Us About Loving Others: *The Good Samaritan* **Luke 10:25-37**

"Help me. I am hurt. Help me!" The man was very hurt. He had been beaten and robbed by angry men who left him on the side of the road. Several people passed by the man and heard him cry.

One man looked at him and moved to the other side of the road. Another man heard him, looked, and walked away. Finally, someone very kind heard the man crying. He bent down to see what was wrong. He smiled and said, "You have been hurt. I am going to help you."

The kind man put the man on his donkey and took him to a hotel until he got well.

Review the Bible story and read Bible verses: Show the picture of **The Good Samaritan (Resource Item 13)**. Ask, *How many people passed by the hurt man? What did the kind man do?* Choose a craft stick from the basket. Invite the child to select a Bible verse marker **(Resource Item 14)** from the Bible. Whisper the Bible verse to the child and prompt the child to "read" it to the group. Ask the group to repeat the Bible verse. Continue pulling craft sticks until each child has a Bible verse.

Make life application: Say, *Jesus wants us to be kind to people.* Ask, *How can you be kind to your friends? Was someone kind to you today?*

Pray: *Thank you, God, for friends who are kind.*

Journey On Down the Road **(Closing Activity)**

Resources needed: **Resource Item 15: Footprints;** 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock; bandage matching game (from puzzle center); small gift bag

Preparation: Copy the footprints on 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock. Cut out the footprints. Gather the bandage matching game to play while waiting on parents. Divide the matching game into two sets. Place one set of the cards in the gift bag and keep the other set in the manila envelope until ready to play the game.

Guide the activity: Show one of the footprints to the children and read the statement and question. Call on a child to give the answer. Make sure the children know the answer to the question on the card. Say, *When you get home, you need to ask your mom or dad to read the words on the footprint. Then you can tell them the answer!* Place a footprint with the child's things.

Closing activity: As you wait on a parent to come, play the adhesive bandage game from the puzzle activity. Lay one set of the cards on the floor face-up. Choose a stick and have the child choose a card from the gift bag and try to find the match on the floor.

Session 3



Bible Story and Scripture:

Jesus Teaches Us About Loving Others: *Zacchaeus*
(Luke 19:1-10)

Daily Bible Verses:

Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house (Luke 19:6).
Love one another (1 John 4:7).

Bible Truth:

Jesus loved all people.

Learning Aim:

To help children know they can be friends

Prepare for the Session

Study the Bible

Bible Background: Luke 19:1-10

Jesus was in the last months of his earthly ministry when he made his way through the city of Jericho. Jericho's central importance was that it was strategically located on one of the main roads to Jerusalem. As Jesus journeyed through Jericho toward Jerusalem, he met the local tax collector, Zacchaeus.

Tax collectors were the most unpopular professional businessmen in Israel. The Roman Senate had found it convenient to farm the direct taxes and the customs taxes to such tax collectors, who undertook to pay a given sum into the treasury. Contracts of this kind fell naturally into the hands of the commercial and financial class of Romans. A system for collecting the taxes was set up, like a company, with the local representative being a person like Zacchaeus. These tax-gatherers were encouraged by their superiors to extract excessive amounts of money from the poor and the working class.

Zacchaeus's title of "chief tax-collector" probably placed him in a relatively high position in the system, which would be an impressive accomplishment for a Jew. Very few Jews could reach such a high position in the Roman taxation system. In this position Zacchaeus's money-making potential was enormous, as was the people's hatred toward him.

Zacchaeus's heart was changed by the power of God's love. After his experience with Christ, Zacchaeus promised to give half of all he owned to the poor and to pay back four times the amount he had cheated from any one person. The change in Zacchaeus's heart was manifested in his actions.

When Jesus comes into our lives, it should produce a visible change in the way we treat people and the way we live. We should always be prepared to help the poor and treat people with dignity and love.

Plan with the Bible Teaching Team

- Read the Bible story about Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10. Read the Bible background material to enhance your study of the story.
- Send home the parent letter to new children today.
- Read through all the ***Our Journey Begins, Journey Through the Marketplace, and Journey on Down the Road*** activities to make sure you have everything you need for day three.
- Write all the food and nature items on the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 4)** and post by the door.
- Gather and prepare the needed items for ***We Journey with Jesus*** group time.

- Prepare nametags for new children and write their names on a craft stick for the Bible verse activity during group time.
- The group picture and/or pictures of each child should be completed today so there is ample time to print the pictures.

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session needed	Activity Area
Die-cut or real leaves	3	Welcome
Catalog or magazine pictures of people (all ages, 2 or 3 per child)	3	Welcome
Scissors (child-sized)	3	Welcome
Glue or masking tape	3	Welcome
Resource Item 16: Cards for Sick People	3	Art
8 ½" x 11" copy paper (various colors)	3	Art
Washable markers	3	Art
Pictures of flowers from magazines, greeting cards or stickers	3	Art
Glue sticks	3	Art
Cardboard blocks	3	Blocks
People stand-up figures	3	Blocks
Twigs with leaves	3	Blocks
Spray can lids (all sizes)	3	Blocks
Modeling clay or play dough	3	Blocks
Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster	3	Dramatic Play
Tablecloth or placemats	3	Dramatic Play
Unbreakable vase	3	Dramatic Play
Fresh flowers (if possible) or silk flower stems	3	Dramatic Play
Paper or toy plates, cups, utensils	3	Dramatic Play
Broom and dustpan	3	Dramatic Play
Spray bottles (2 or 3 small)	3	Dramatic Play
Paper towels	3	Dramatic Play
Feather duster	3	Dramatic Play
Paper or cloth napkins	3	Dramatic Play
Resource Item 17: Mission Story and Picture	3	Missions
8 ½" x 11" white copy paper	3	Missions
Cardboard blocks	3	Missions
Clear contact paper (10" x 10", 2 pieces per child)	3	Nature
Scissors (for teacher's only)	3	Nature
Masking tape	3	Nature
Assorted nature items such as: leaves, tree bark, pine needles, and small flowers	3	Nature

Resource Item 18: Bible Verses	3	Nature
8 ½" x 11" colored paper or cardstock (3 colors)	3	Nature
Hole puncher	3	Nature
Yarn	3	Nature
Leaf stickers (6-8 matching pairs)	3	Puzzles
Poster board (small piece) or cardstock (one color, twelve to sixteen 4" x 4" pieces)	3	Puzzles
Manila envelope (5" x 7" for storing game)	3	Puzzles
Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster	3	Snack
Whole apples of different varieties	3	Snack
Apple sauce (individual cups or large container)	3	Snack
Sharp knife (for teacher's use only)	3	Snack
Serving spoon and small bowls (if using large container)	3	Snack
Small paper plates, napkins, plastic spoons, cups	3	Snack
Pitcher of water	3	Snack
Resource Item 19: Teaching Picture: Zacchaeus	3	Group Time
Resource Item 20: Bible Verse Markers	3	Group Time
8 ½" x 11" cardstock or copy paper (3 colors)	3	Group Time
Basket and craft sticks (from previous sessions)	3	Group Time
Resource Item 21: Footprints	3	Closing Activity
8 ½" x 11" white cardstock	3	Closing Activity
Leaf matching game (from puzzle center)	3	Closing Activity
Small gift bag	3	Closing Activity

Greeting and Welcome

The director will greet children and parents at the door. Be sure that each child is checked in properly and is wearing a nametag (see instructions for name tags in "**Plan with the Bible Teaching Team**" section). Finish taking the photographs of the children today. The pictures should be printed after the session so they can be placed in the frame. Guide each child to the teacher wearing the same color of nametag to begin the welcome activity. If you have new children today, write their name on a nametag and craft stick.

Our Journey Begins (Welcome Activity)

Welcome Activity: Add leaves to the big tree and people to the road.

Resources needed: Die-cut or real leaves; glue or masking tape; catalog or magazine pictures of people (all ages, 2 or 3 per child); scissors (child-sized)

Preparation: Die-cut many different sizes of leaves or gather leaves from your home. Allow each child to have two or three leaves. Tear out pages from the catalogs or magazines with pictures of people. Try to find people standing rather than sitting.

Guide the activity: As you welcome the children in your group, say, *Today, Jesus will meet a man named Zacchaeus. Where was Zacchaeus when Jesus came walking down the road? That's right! He was in a tree. I can't wait to hear the rest of the story.* A different small group can move Jesus to section three. Instruct the children to add the leaves to the branches of the large tree on the mural. After they put the leaves on the tree, let the children cut out people to place on the road and under the tree. Talk about the story of Zacchaeus as the children work.

Transition to Bible learning activities: When most of the children have completed the welcome activity, ring the bell to signal clean-up time and the beginning of the Bible learning activities. Also, ring the bell to signal the time to move from one activity to the next activity. Continue doing this until the children have been to each activity.

Journey Through the Marketplace **(Bible Learning Activities)**

Art Activity: Make "We care" cards.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Resource Item 16: Care Cards; 8 ½" x 11" copy paper (various colors); washable markers; pictures of flowers from magazines, greeting cards or stickers; glue sticks

Preparation: Copy the cards on copy paper. Place the flower pictures or stickers and markers on the table.

Guide the activity: Say, *Today, we are going to decorate cards to send to people who need to know that people care about them. Consider homebound or people in assisted living facilities.* Give each child one of the cards (**Resource Item 16**). Guide children to select a picture or stickers. Help them glue the pictures or put the stickers on the inside and back of the card. When the cards are finished, place them in a large manila envelope and give to your preschool minister to take or mail to people who are sick.

Bible story conversation: Say, the Bible says, "Love one another." *Thank you for showing love to people.*

Block Activity: Build Zacchaeus' home.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Cardboard blocks; people stand-up figures; twigs with leaves; spray can lids (all sizes); modeling clay or play dough

Preparation: Put a small amount of clay inside can lids and stick a twig into each one. Place these in the block area as trees. Arrange the stand-up figures around the trees

Guide the activity: Guide the children to build a house with the blocks. Suggest placing the trees around the house. The children can use the stand-up figures to act out the story. As the children play, tell them the Bible story. Say, *You can use the trees and people to play out the Bible story.*

Bible story conversation: *You are doing a good job of being kind and working together. Jesus called Zacchaeus' name. Zacchaeus was happy that Jesus was coming to his house.*

Dramatic Play Activity: Prepare for a friend's visit.

Team Member Responsible: _____

Resources needed: **Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster;** tablecloth or placemats; unbreakable vase; fresh flowers (if possible) or silk flower stems; paper or toy plates, cups, utensils; broom and dustpan; spray bottles (small); paper towels; feather duster; paper or cloth napkins

Preparation: Add the types of flowers to the allergy alert poster (**Resource Item 4**) in case some of your children have allergies. If one child is allergic to the flowers, remove them from the room and use the silk flowers. Place the other items in the dramatic play center.

Guide the activity: As the children clean and prepare for a friends visit, say, *We need to get our house ready for a friend who is coming to visit!* Tell the story of Zacchaeus. After cleaning and getting the table set, let the children arrange the flowers in a vase and set them on the table. The children can then act out the story.

Bible story conversation: As the children clean and prepare for a friend's visit, say, *Zacchaeus was so excited that Jesus was coming to his house. He cleaned his house and made a special meal for him!* Tell the story of Zacchaeus.

Mission Activity: Build a house

Resources needed: **Resource Item 17: Mission Story and Picture;** 8 ½" x 11" white copy paper; cardboard blocks

Prepare: Make a copy of the mission story and picture (**Resource Item 17**). Locate Lincoln logs or cardboard blocks

Guide the activity: Tell the children the story of Ms. Adams and her son, Craig. Show the picture before or after telling the story. Heavy rains flooded their area but they were deaf and couldn't hear the knocks on their door. Their trailer home floated away. They were rescued. A group of college students came to help them fix their trailer home. Let's build a house with our blocks. Show the children some simple words or phrases in sign language.

Pray: Thank you, God, for protecting Ms. Adams and Craig. Thank you for sending people to help them.

Nature Activity: Make a nature collage.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Clear contact paper (10" x 10", 2 pieces per child); scissors (for teacher's only); masking tape; assorted nature items such as: leaves, tree bark, pine needles, and small flowers; **Resource Item 18: Bible Verses;** 8 ½" x 11" colored paper or cardstock; hole puncher; yarn

Preparation: Remove the backing from the contact paper and tape it, sticky side up, on the table for the children. Copy the Bible verses (**Resource Item 18**) on colored paper or cardstock. Cut the verses apart. Each child should have a copy of the verses. Place the nature items nearby.

Guide the activity: Explain to the children that they will be making a nature collage. Tell them to stick the Bible verses on first and then fill in around them with the nature items. When the collage is complete, add a second sheet of contact paper, sticky side to sticky side. Punch two holes at the top and place a piece of yarn through the holes to create a hanger.

Bible story conversation: *Look at all the wonderful things God made. I see leaves, pine needles, flowers, and tree bark. All these things come from trees. They remind me of today's story. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus but he could not see over the crowd. Zacchaeus climbed up into a tree so that he could see Jesus. Jesus talked to Zacchaeus. Jesus loved all people and we can love people too.*

Puzzle Activity: Play a leaf matching game.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Leaf stickers (6-8 matching pairs); laminated poster board or cardstock (one color, twelve to sixteen 4" x 4" pieces); manila envelope (5" x 7", for storing game)

Preparation: Draw the 4" x 4" squares on the poster board or cardstock and then laminate it. Place matching leaves on the cards. Make ten to twelve matches. Cut apart the squares and place them in a manila envelope for storage. Write "Leaf" matching game on the front of the envelope.

Guide the activity: Show the children the different leaves on the cards. Explain that they will be playing a matching game. Place the cards face-down in rows on a table. Encourage the children to take turns turning over two cards. If the leaves match, the child should place the cards to the side. It is then the next child's turn. If the leaves do not match, the cards should be returned to their facedown position before the next child takes his turn.

Bible story conversation: Say, *Zacchaeus climbed up a tree to see Jesus. The tree may have leaves that looked like these leaves. Jesus was a friend to Zacchaeus.*

Our Daily Bread
(Snack Time)

Snack: Eat apples and applesauce.

Resources needed: Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster; whole apples of different varieties; applesauce (individual cups or large container); sharp knife (for teacher's use only); serving spoon and small bowls (if using large container); small paper plates; plastic spoons; napkins; cups; pitcher of water

Preparation: On the allergy alert poster, list the foods that will be eaten. Wash, core, cut, and peel the apples.

Guide the activity: Say a thank you prayer for the apples before serving the children. Begin a discussion about how apples grow on a tree and compare the different varieties. Cut slices of apples for those who want some and serve applesauce to each child. Be careful to keep the sharp knife away from the children.

Bible story conversation: While visiting about how apples grow say, *One day when Jesus was walking and teaching, he saw Zacchaeus up in a tree. Zacchaeus climbed the tree so that he could see Jesus better. Jesus stopped to talk to Zacchaeus because Jesus cared about him.*

Clean-up Time: Ring the bell to signal clean-up time. Give the groups five to seven minutes to transition to the closing activity.

Transition to Group Time: Walk around the room as you encourage the children to help in the clean-up process. As the children finish, ask them to follow you to the group time area.

We Journey with Jesus **(Bible Story Group Time)**

Resources needed: Resource Item 19: Teaching Picture: *Zacchaeus*; Resource Item 20: Bible Verse Markers; 8 ½" x 11" cardstock or copy paper (3 colors); basket and craft sticks (from previous sessions)

Preparation: Print the Bible verse markers (**Resource Item 20**) on three colors of cardstock or copy paper. Cut the verses apart. Place them in the Bible at the correct references. Make one verse per child. Place the craft sticks with the children's names in the basket.

Tell the Bible story: Open your Bible to Luke 19 and tell the story of Zacchaeus. Use voice inflection and good eye contact as you tell the story.

Jesus Teaches About Loving Others: *Zacchaeus* **Luke 19:1-10**

Zacchaeus was very lonely. People did not like Zacchaeus very much because he was a tax collector and often took their money from them. Zacchaeus did not have many friends. One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was going to come to his town. He was excited. He knew that Jesus spoke to many different kinds of people. Maybe Jesus would speak to him.

On the day that Jesus came to Zacchaeus' town, many people filled the street. They wanted to see Jesus. Since Zacchaeus was short, he could not see over the people in the street. He jumped up and down and tried to see, but all he could see were the tops of their heads. Finally he had an idea. There was a tree on the side of the road. He could climb the tree and get high enough to see Jesus.

Zacchaeus quickly climbed the tree just as Jesus was walking by him. Suddenly, Jesus stopped and looked up in the tree. He smiled at Zacchaeus. For the first time, Zacchaeus knew that he had a friend. Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down from the tree. I want to go to your house!" Zacchaeus was so happy. He climbed down the tree and walked with Jesus to his house. Zacchaeus knew that Jesus loved him. He knew that Jesus was his friend.

Review the Bible story and read Bible verses: Show the teaching picture (**Resource Item 19**). Ask, *Do you see Zacchaeus? Where is he? Why did he climb the tree? What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus?* Choose two sticks from the basket. Ask the two children to choose a Bible verse

(Resource Item 20) for their friend. Whisper each of the verses to the children. Then each child can say it aloud. Tell the children to choose two friends. They will come and choose each other a Bible verse. Repeat until every child has a Bible marker.

Make life application: Talk with the children about how Jesus was a kind friend. Ask the children to name some things they can do to be kind to their friends.

Pray: *Thank you, God, for friends.*

Journey On Down the Road **(Closing Activity)**

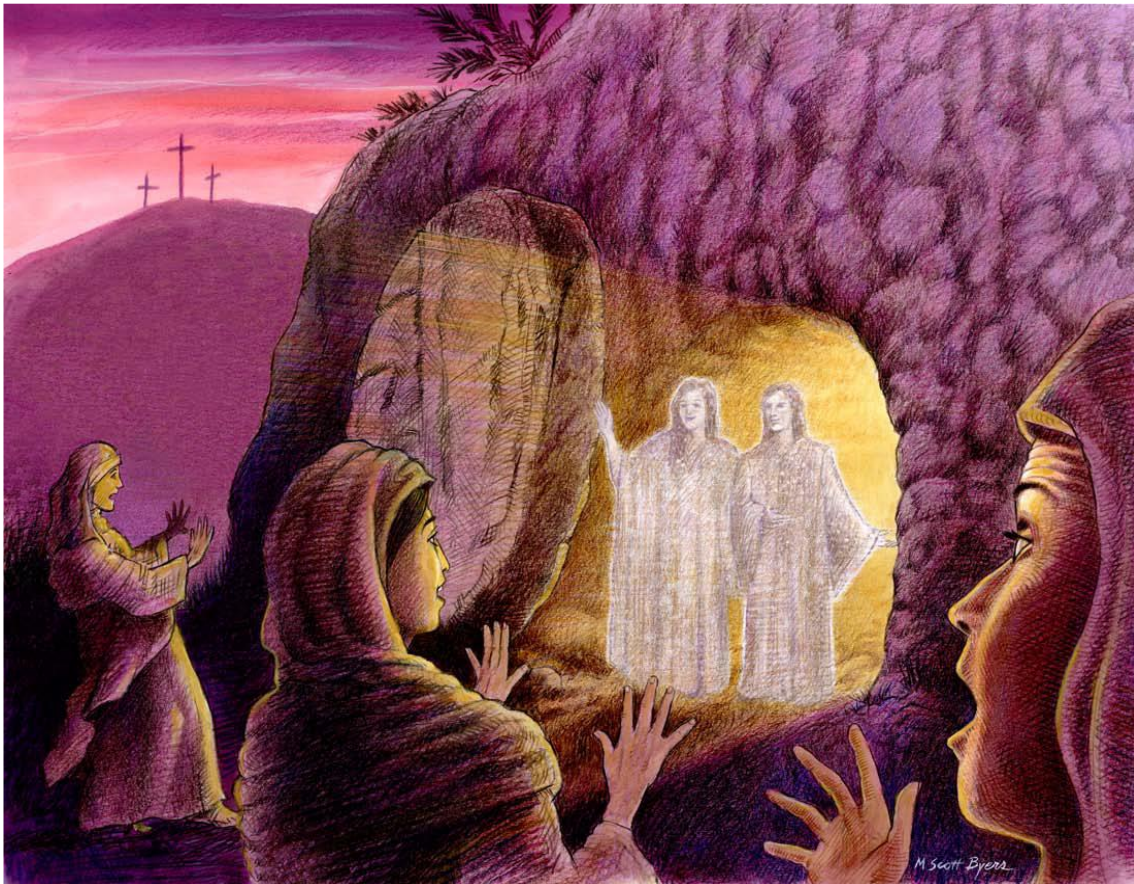
Resources needed: Resource Item 21: Footprints; 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock; leaf matching game (from puzzle center); small gift bag

Preparation: Copy the footprints on 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock. Cut out the footprints. Gather the leaf matching game from the puzzle center. Place one set of the matching game in the gift bag. Keep the other set in the envelope until ready to play.

Guide the activity: Show one of the footprints to the children and read the statement and question. See if the children know the answer to the question. Make sure they know the answer before leaving! Say, *When you get home, you need to ask your mom or dad to read the words on the footprint. Then, you can tell them the answer!* Place a footprint with the child's things.

Closing activity: As you wait on a parent to come, play the leaf matching game from the puzzle activity. Lay one set of the cards on the floor face-up. Choose a stick and have the child choose a card from the gift bag and try to find the match on the floor.

Session 4



Bible Story and Scripture:

Jesus Loves Us: *A Happy Day*
(Luke 24:1-12; Matthew 28:1-12)

Daily Bible Verses:

Jesus is alive (Luke 24:6).
Jesus loves us (1 John 4:19).

Bible Truth:

Jesus is alive.

Learning Aim:

To help children know Jesus is alive

Prepare for the Session

Study the Bible

Bible Background: Luke 24:1-12; Matthew 28:1-12

Sabbath was over, the day that symbolized God's day of rest. Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" (see Matthew 27:56) went to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. The tomb was probably a cave hewn out of a limestone hillside. It likely had two chambers. The first would have had a ledge around it; the second, a niche cut out for the body. Ordinarily, tombs were reused. When space was needed for additional bodies, the remains would be removed and placed in a hole in the floor. Jesus' tomb had never been used (Matthew 27:60; John 19:41).

Mary Magdalene was from Magdala, a village on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. She became one of Jesus' followers after Jesus cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). She is always named first when women are listed. She was the first person to see Jesus after his resurrection, according to the Gospel of John (John 20:1-18).

As "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb" (Matt. 28:1), a great earthquake occurred, and an angel rolled away the stone that sealed the entrance! Originally the large, round stone had been set in a groove and rolled down to cover the entrance.

The angel attempted to calm the women's fears. Then the angel told them that Jesus was gone from the tomb. He had risen from the dead! The women were instructed to tell Jesus' disciples and convey the instructions to go to a prearranged meeting place in Galilee (Mark 14:28; Matthew 26:32).

On the way to deliver the message to the disciples, the women met Jesus. He greeted them, tried to alleviate their fears, and repeated the message to be delivered to the disciples. The women hurried to deliver the message. What a wonderful day!

Plan with the Bible Teaching Team

- Read the story about the resurrection in Luke 24:1-12 and Matthew 28:1-12. Study the Bible background material. It's always good to be reminded of this wonderful story in our Bible.
- Read through all the *Our Journey Begins*, *Journey Through the Marketplace*, and *Journey on Down the Road* activities to make sure you have everything you need for Day 4.
- Prepare for *We Journey with Jesus* group time. Gather needed items and prepare Bible markers.
- Write all the food items on the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 4)**. There are several different items today.

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session needed	Activity Area
6" paper plates (1 per child)	4	Welcome
Green craft sticks (1 per child)	4	Welcome
Stapler or masking tape	4	Welcome
Green masking tape (optional)	4	Welcome
Washable markers crayons, or watercolor paints	4	Welcome
Glue sticks	4	Welcome
Die-cut 4" x 6" (inside measurement) picture frames (1 per child, brown cardstock, poster board, or fun foam)	4	Art
Photos of children (individual or group)	4	Art
Double-stick tape	4	Art
Fun foam foot prints or flowers (adhesive backed)	4	Art
Magnetic strip (two 1" strips per child)	4	Art
Lunch-sized paper sacks	4	Blocks
Newsprint or newspaper	4	Blocks
Masking tape	4	Blocks
Brown crayons or markers	4	Blocks
Wooden blocks	4	Blocks
Paper plates (9", 1 per child)	4	Dramatic Play
Large craft sticks (jumbo tongue depressors)	4	Dramatic Play
Stapler	4	Dramatic Play
Crayons or washable markers	4	Dramatic Play
Masking tape (optional)	4	Dramatic Play
Unbreakable mirrors (hand-held)	4	Dramatic Play
Resource Item 22: Mission Story and Picture	4	Missions
8 ½" x 11" copy paper	4	Missions
Styrofoam pieces (at least 2" thick)	4	Missions
Golf tees (about 24)	4	Missions
Small wooden play hammers	4	Missions
Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster	4	Nature
Petals of brightly colored flowers such as, begonias, roses, and impatiens	4	Nature
Plastic plates (5" clear, 2 per child)	4	Nature
Masking tape (colored)	4	Nature
Pom-poms (assorted colors)	4	Puzzles
Egg cartons (2 or 3)	4	Puzzles
Permanent markers (same colors as pom-poms)	4	Puzzles
Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster	4	Snacks
Sandwich bread (1 piece per child)	4	Snacks
Soft-spread butter	4	Snacks
Colored sugar or sweetened Jello® powder	4	Snacks
Empty sprinkle bottles (1 per table)	4	Snacks

Flower shaped cookie cutters (2-4)	4	Snacks
Plastic knives or spoons (1 per child)	4	Snacks
Paper plates (large and small)	4	Snacks
Paper cups and pitcher of water	4	Snacks
Toaster or conventional oven (optional)	4	Snacks
Cookie sheet	4	Snacks
Parchment paper or aluminum foil	4	Snacks
Permanent marker (if using oven)	4	Snacks
Hot pad	4	Snacks
Resource Item 23: Teaching Picture: A Happy Day	4	Group Time
Resource Item 24: Bible Verse Markers	4	Group Time
8 ½" x 11" cardstock or copy paper (3 colors)	4	Group Time
Basket with craft sticks (from previous sessions)	4	Group Time
Resource Item 25: Footprints	4	Closing
8 ½" x 11" white cardstock	4	Closing
Happy face puppet (from dramatic play center)	4	Closing

Our Journey Begins **(Welcome Activity)**

Welcome Activity: Add paper plate flowers to the mural.

Resources needed: 6" paper plates (1 per child); green craft sticks (1 per child); stapler or masking tape; green masking tape (optional); washable markers, crayons, or watercolor paints; glue sticks

Preparation: Before the session, fold the paper plates in half. Cut scallops around the rounded edges of the plates, not on the fold. Unfold the flower and staple or tape the green craft stick to the flower plates. If needed, place a piece of green masking tape over the staple on the back of the craft stick.

Guide the activity: As you welcome the children today, ask, *Why do you think we have this empty tomb on the mural? It was a happy day! Jesus met some people on the road. They were so happy that Jesus was alive!* Allow another group to move the Jesus figure to the fourth section. Give each child a paper plate. *Today, we're making flowers to add to our mural! Flowers make you happy and make the ground so pretty.* Tell them to color the flower with the crayons, markers, or watercolor paints. Write the child's name on the back of the flower. Instruct the children to glue or tape the flowers on section four of the mural around the empty tomb.

Bible story conversation: As the children color the flowers, say, *Your flowers will look beautiful on our mural. We will celebrate that Jesus is alive!*

Transition to Bible learning activities: When most of the children have completed the welcome activity, ring the bell to signal clean-up time and the beginning of the Bible learning activities. Also, ring the bell to signal the time to move from one activity to the next activity. Continue doing this until the children have been to each activity.

Journey Through the Marketplace **(Bible Learning Activities)**

Art Activity: Decorate a photo frame.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Die-cut 4" x 6" (inside measurement) picture frames (1 per child, brown cardstock, poster board, or fun foam); photos of children (individual or group); double-stick tape; fun foam footprints or flowers (adhesive backed); magnetic strip (two 1" strips per child)

Preparation: Pre-cut the picture frames. The children's pictures could be taped in the frames before the session. Write "VBS ____ (year)" and your church name on the bottom of the frame.

Guide the activity: As the children come to the center, they will decorate a picture frame with the footprint or flower shapes. Give the children the two pieces of magnetic strip to place on the back of the picture frame. This will be a keepsake for the children!

Bible story conversation: Say, *Easter is the day when we celebrate that Jesus is alive. At Easter, we see many flowers that help us celebrate. The angel said Jesus is alive. The women were happy. We are happy today too. Jesus is alive!*

Block Activity: Make paper bag rocks.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Lunch-sized paper sacks; newsprint or newspaper; masking tape; brown crayons or markers; wooden blocks

Preparation: Place the materials in the block center.

Guide the activity: Instruct the children to color the paper sacks on all sides. Then, show them how to open the bag and wad up the newsprint or newspaper in small pieces. Stuff the bag three-fourths full. Fold the top edge over and seal it with masking tape. Write the child's name on the rock. After the rocks are completed, guide the children to make an empty tomb using the blocks and the rocks.

Bible story conversation: As they create their rocks and build with them, say, *Jesus was in the tomb but then he rose from the dead. Jesus is alive! What a happy day!*

Dramatic Play Activity: Make happy face puppets.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Paper plates (9", 1 per child); large craft sticks (jumbo tongue depressors); stapler; crayons or washable markers; masking tape (optional); hand-held unbreakable mirrors

Preparation: Staple the paper plates to large craft sticks. Make sure the staple ends are pushed down so the children will not get hurt. They can be covered with a piece of masking tape.

Guide the activity: Give each child a paper plate. Tell the children to look into the mirror and give a big smile! Tell them to draw a smiling face on the paper plate. Guide them to draw eyes, nose, mouth, ears, and hair on their puppet. Encourage them to make the puppet look just like them! Make sure they are smiling!

Bible story conversation: Say, *The people in these pictures are happy. We can tell by the smiles on their faces. The women were happy when they found out Jesus was alive. This is a happy day for us, also. Jesus is alive, and we are happy.*

Mission Activity: Hammer with golf tees.

Resources needed: Resource Item 22: Mission Story and Picture; 8 ½" x 11" white copy paper; Styrofoam pieces (at least 2" thick); golf tees (about 24); small wooden play hammers

Preparation: Make a copy of the mission story and picture. Cut pieces of Styrofoam into approximately 6" x 6". Place golf tees into small bowls.

Guide the activity: Allow two children to hammer the golf tees into the Styrofoam pieces as you tell the story. Supervise this activity very closely. Tell the children how the students used hammers and nails to fix houses. Show the picture after telling the story.

Prayer: Thank you, God, that students helped Richard fix his house.

Nature Activity: Press flowers between plastic plates.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster; petals of brightly colored flowers such as, begonias, roses, and impatiens; plastic plates (5" clear, 2 per child); masking tape (colored)

Preparation: Include the kinds of flowers on your allergy alert poster (**Resource Item 4**) for today. Some children may be allergic to certain kinds of flowers. Gather flower petals from your yard or call a florist to see if they will donate old flowers to use.

Guide the activity: Allow the children to choose the flower petals they like and lay them on one plastic plate. Then, press the other plate on top of the flower petals and press down. Secure the edges with colored masking tape. Lead the children to wash their hands after handling the flowers. Talk about the fact that God made the flowers we are using today.

Bible story conversation: Say, *God gives us many beautiful things to enjoy because God loves us. God sent Jesus because God loves us. We can be happy that God loves us so much. We are happy today that Jesus is alive.*

Puzzle Activity: Sort colored pom-poms.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Pom-poms (assorted colors); egg cartons (2 or 3); permanent markers (same colors as pom-poms)

Preparation: Prior to the session, color the inside of the egg carton sections with permanent markers. Be sure to use the same colors as the pom-poms.

Guide the activity: Guide the children to sort the pom-poms by color into the egg cartons.

Bible story conversation: Say, *These pom-poms are pretty colors just like our flowers that God made. Today is a day to celebrate new life and remember that Jesus is alive in heaven.*

Our Daily Bread **(Snack Time)**

Snack: Make and eat flower-shaped bread.

Resources needed: **Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster;** sandwich bread (1 piece per child); soft-spread butter; colored sugar or sweetened Jello® powder; empty sprinkle bottles (1 per table); several flower shaped cookie cutters (2-4); plastic knives or spoons (1 per child); large and small paper plates; cups; pitcher of water; toaster or conventional oven (optional); cookie sheet; parchment paper or aluminum foil; permanent marker (if using an oven); hot pad

Preparation: Place the allergy alert poster (**Resource Item 4**) at the door with the items the children will be eating. Place the Jello® powder or colored sugar in empty sprinkle bottles. Remove the inside lid with the holes and place clear tape on the underneath side to cover some of

the holes. This will limit the amount of sugar or powder the child uses. Place a slice of bread, small amount of butter and a plastic knife or spoon on each child's plate. Place the cookie cutters on the table. If toasting the bread, have the parchment paper or aluminum foil and permanent marker available.

Guide the activity: Instruct the children to use the flower-shaped cookie cutter to cut their slice of bread. Place at least one cookie cutter on each table. Some children may need help with this. Once the bread is in the shape of a flower, help the children spread butter onto their flower bread and then sprinkle it with colored sugar or Jello® powder. The bread may be toasted in a toaster or conventional oven if desired. Cover the cookie sheet with parchment paper or aluminum foil. Place each child's flower bread on the covered cookie sheet and write the child's name under his or her bread. It's very important that the children eat their own flower!

Bible story conversation: As the children enjoy their sweet flower shaped bread, say, *The Bible tells us that Jesus is alive! While he lived on earth, he taught us how to be a good friend, how to love others, and how to take care of people.*

Clean-up Time: Ring the bell to signal clean-up time. Give the groups five to seven minutes to transition to the closing activity.

Transition to Group Time: When most of the children have come to group time, lead them in singing these words to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush":

This is the way we sit up tall,
Sit up tall, sit up tall.
This the way we sit up tall,
Together in our church.

Model how you want the children to sit during group time. Say, *I am happy you came to VBS this week. Today, we are going to learn about some women who were happy to see Jesus.*

We Journey with Jesus **(Bible Story Group Time)**

Resources needed: **Resource Item 23: Teaching Picture: A Happy Day:** **Resource Item 24: Bible Verse Markers;** 8 ½" x 11" cardstock or copy paper (3 colors); basket with craft sticks (from previous sessions)

Preparation: Print the Bible verse markers (**Resource Item 24**) on three colors of cardstock or copy paper. Cut the verses apart. Place them in the Bible at the correct references. Make one verse per child. Place the craft sticks with the children's names in the basket.

Tell the Bible story: Open your Bible to Luke 24 and Matthew 28 and tell the story of the resurrection of Jesus. Use lots of expression in your voice and good eye contact as you tell the story.

Jesus Loves Us: A Happy Day
Luke 24:1-12

Very early in the morning, two women, both named Mary, were talking as they walked up the hill to Jesus' tomb. As they got near, Mary Magdalene cried, "What is that? Do you see that bright light?" They were both stunned to see such a sight. An angel, dressed in shining white robes, spoke to them. The angel said, "Do not be afraid. Jesus isn't here; he has risen." Jesus was alive? How could that be?

The two women were joyously excited to learn that Jesus was alive. The angel told them to tell their friends that Jesus was alive, and so they rushed off to do as he said. Running breathlessly down the hill, they stopped just short of bumping into Jesus himself.

They instantly bowed down and worshiped Jesus. Jesus told them to go and tell his followers that he was alive. With a little hesitation to leave Jesus, the women hurried off to deliver the wonderful news. What a joy it was to find Jesus alive!

Review the Bible story and read Bible verses: Review the story with the children by showing them the picture of the women at the tomb and asking questions about the story. Choose a stick from the basket. Call the child to choose a Bible verse marker (**Resource Item 24**). Read the verse to the child and then ask the child to repeat it. Emphasize that the women were very happy to learn that Jesus was alive.

Make life application: Today our story was a very happy story. Jesus loves you so much!

Pray: Thank God that Jesus is alive. Thank God for each child in the group.

Journey on Down the Road
(Closing Activity)

Resources needed: **Resource Item 25: Footprints;** 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock; happy face puppet (from dramatic play center); small gift bag

Preparation: Copy the footprints on 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock. Cut out the footprints. Gather one happy face puppet from the dramatic play center.

Guide the activity: Show one of the footprints to the children and read the statement and question. Call on a child to answer the question. Say, *When you get home, you need to ask your mom or dad to read the words on the footprint. Then, you can tell them the answer!* Place a footprint with the child's things.

Closing activity: As you wait on a parent to come, hold up a happy face puppet. Tell the children that you will choose a stick for someone to come to the front and hold the happy face puppet. Ask the child to name one thing or activity that makes him or her happy and hold up the happy face puppet. Say, *God gives us many things to make us happy! Thank you, God, for Jesus!*

Session 5:



Bible Story and Scripture:

Jesus Teaches Us to Tell Others About Him: *Go and Tell Others*
(Luke 24:13-49)

Daily Bible Verses:

Go and tell others about Jesus (Matthew 28:19).
The people were happy to see Jesus (Luke 24:34).

Bible Truth:

Tell others about Jesus.

Learning Aim:

To help children know that we should tell others about Jesus

Prepare for the Session

Study the Bible

Bible Background: Luke 24:13-49

A modern eye examination usually begins with the patient viewing a chart with lines of letters of the alphabet printed in graduated sizes. The two travelers on the Emmaus road needed no such examination, however. Theirs were not visual problems but perception problems. They failed to recognize Jesus.

Emmaus was a village approximately seven miles from Jerusalem (Luke 24:13). It was late in the evening on Easter. Cleopas and an unidentified companion were walking home. They were talking about the terrible events of the last three days—the crucifixion and surrounding circumstances. They both were followers of Jesus.

The forlorn travelers were engrossed in their conversation when a stranger joined. The newcomer seemed totally unaware of the events that had so recently transpired in Jerusalem. The travelers told him about the horrible crucifixion. They explained about the women finding the tomb empty. They lamented that no one had actually seen Jesus. Their disillusionment must have been evident in their report. They had believed Jesus was Israel's promised Redeemer.

Jesus chided them for being discouraged in their faith. He reassured them their faith had not been misplaced. Then Jesus began to remind them of all the Scriptures that said the Messiah would "suffer these things and then enter his glory" (Luke 24:25). Jesus referred to "Moses and all the Prophets" (24:27). The Jewish Scriptures of that day consisted of two parts: the Law of Moses (Genesis—Deuteronomy) and "the Prophets." The Law of Moses refers to the first five books of the Bible. The Prophets refers to the former prophets—meaning Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings—and the latter prophets, meaning the books generally associated with the prophets. A third major section, the Writings (the remaining books of our Old Testament), had not yet been finalized at the time of Jesus.

On reaching their home, the travelers invited Jesus to stay with them. Guests were highly esteemed in Jewish culture. When a stranger knocked on the door, the head of the household almost always extended hospitality to them.

While they were eating, the two travelers finally recognized Jesus. They were overjoyed and hastened back to Jerusalem to spread the word that Jesus was alive. They had seen him!

Plan with the Bible Teaching Team

- Read the Bible story found in Luke 24:13-49. Thank God for your church and for the many families touched by VBS. Pray that they will come back on Sunday. Pray for those families who may not know Jesus Christ. Pray for opportunities to share your faith.

- Read through all the *Our Journey Begins*, *Journey Through the Marketplace*, and *Journey on Down the Road* activities to make sure you have everything you need for Day 5.
- Prepare for *We Journey with Jesus* group time. Gather needed items and prepare Bible markers.
- Write all the food items on the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 4)** and post by the door. There are several items to eat today.
- At the end of VBS, make sure everything is put back where it belongs. Leave the room just as you found it or cleaner!

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session needed	Activity Area
Catalog or magazine pictures of people (all ages)	5	Welcome
Scissors (child-sized)	5	Welcome
Glue sticks	5	Welcome
Resource Item 26: Footprint Picture	5	Art
8 ½" x 11" white cardstock (1 per child)	5	Art
Paint (brown, washable)	5	Art
Shallow pan	5	Art
Sponge brush	5	Art
Paper towels	5	Art
Baby wipes	5	Art
Cafeteria tray or paper box lid	5	Art
Drop cloth or plastic tablecloth	5	Art
Resource Item 27: Footprint Block Pattern Cards	5	Blocks
8 ½" x 11" white cardstock	5	Blocks
Wooden blocks (shapes on pattern cards)	5	Blocks
Laundry basket or large tub	5	Blocks
Ingredients for one recipe of play dough: flour (1 cup), salt (½ cup), water (1 cup), cooking oil (2 tablespoons), cream of tartar (2 teaspoons), food coloring (liquid, not gel), peppermint flavoring	5	Dramatic Play
Cafeteria trays	5	Dramatic Play
Snack-size zipper baggies (1 per child)	5	Dramatic Play
Plastic dishes	5	Dramatic Play
Toy eating utensils or plastic dinnerware	5	Dramatic Play
Toy pots and pans	5	Dramatic Play
Cookie cutters (fruit and vegetable cutters)	5	Dramatic Play
Resource Item 28: Mission Story and Picture	5	Missions
8 ½" x 11" white copy paper	5	Missions
Refrigerator or washing machine box	5	Missions
Paint brushes (small regular brushes)	5	Missions
Buckets for water	5	Missions

Painting smocks or old shirts	5	Missions
Drop cloth (plastic)	5	Missions
Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster	5	Nature
Ingredients for trail mix: O-shaped cereal, pretzels sticks, small marshmallows, raisins, chocolate coated candy pieces (optional)	5	Nature
Medium sized bowls (5)	5	Nature
6-8 oz foam or paper cups (1 per child)	5	Nature
Small scoops or spoons	5	Nature
Snack-size zipper baggies (2 per child)	5	Nature
Pictures of food items cut from magazines (limit pictures to 4-6 colors) or stickers	5	Puzzles
9" x 12" construction paper (same colors as food pictures)	5	Puzzles
Trail mix bags made in the nature center	5	Snack
Paper cups and pitcher of water	5	Snack
Resource Item 29: Teaching Picture: Go and Tell Others	5	Group Time
Resource Item 30: Bible Verse Markers	5	Group Time
8 ½" x 11" cardstock or copy paper (3 colors)	5	Group Time
Basket with craft sticks (from previous sessions)	5	Group Time
Resource Item 31: Footprints	5	Closing
8 ½" x 11" white cardstock	5	Closing

Our Journey Begins (Welcome Activity)

Welcome Activity: Add pictures of people to the road.

Resources needed: Catalog or magazine pictures of people (all ages); scissors (child-sized); glue sticks

Preparation: Tear out pages from catalogs or magazines. Depending on the age of the children, cut them out or leave some of them uncut. Place the pictures on the table or floor. Threes and fours need practice cutting under supervised conditions.

Guide the activity: Allow another group to move the Jesus figure to the fifth section. As the children come to your group, say, *Today is our last day at VBS. Our Bible story today tells us that Jesus met some of his helpers on the road. He told them that he would be going away but he wanted them to tell people everywhere about him.* Ask the children to choose pictures of people to glue on the road. If they are cutting them out, supervise as needed. Show them where to glue the people onto the ground or road.

Transition to Bible learning activities: When most of the children have completed the welcome activity, ring the bell to signal clean-up time and the beginning of the Bible learning

activities. Also, ring the bell to signal the time to move from one activity to the next activity. Continue doing this until the children have been to each activity.

Journey Through the Marketplace **(Bible Learning Activities)**

Art Activity: Make a footprint picture.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Resource Item 26: Footprint Picture; 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock (1 per child); washable paint (brown); shallow pan; sponge brush; paper towels; baby wipes; cafeteria tray or paper box lid; drop cloth or plastic tablecloth

Preparation: This activity needs two teachers helping—one to assist the child and the other to paint and make the footprints. Copy the footprint picture (**Resource Item 26**) on 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock. Make one copy for each child. Place a drop cloth or plastic tablecloth on the floor in the art center. Put a child's chair on the cloth. Place the baby wipes and paper towels close by. Place some brown paint in a shallow container. Place the footprint picture on a cafeteria tray or in a paper box lid.

Guide the activity: Work with only one child at a time. Guide the child to roll their pant legs up to the knees and remove their socks and shoes. Using the sponge brush, paint the bottoms of the child's feet. Place the footprint picture (**Resource Item 26**) on the floor so that the child can stand on the paper and place his or her footprints on the paper. Gently press the child's feet to create good footprints. After the child has made a print of both feet, lift the child's feet off the paper. Remove the footprint picture and then wipe off excess paint with paper towels. The other teacher can assist in cleaning the child's feet with the baby wipes. Give the child the paper towels to dry his or her feet. Then, help the child in putting on socks and shoes.

Bible story conversation: Say, *Jesus met the men while they were walking. They talked for a long time. Jesus explained all the wonderful things he had done. The men liked being with Jesus.*

Block Activity: Make a block pattern path.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Resource Item 27: Footprint Block Pattern Cards; 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock; wooden blocks (shapes on pattern cards); laundry basket or large tub

Preparation: Print the footprint pattern cards on white cardstock and laminate them if possible. Cut the cards apart. Place these cards on the floor in the block center. Make sure you have the block shapes that are on the cards. Place those blocks in a laundry basket or large tub.

Guide the activity: Show the children the footprint pattern cards and explain that they will be making a road by following the patterns on the cards. Tell them to decide the order for the footprint cards. Explain that they should work together to find blocks that have the same shapes as the shapes on the first card. Guide them to line up the blocks on the floor to match the pattern. Follow the pattern on the next five cards.

Bible story conversation: As the children build the road, say, *You are making a road. In today's Bible story, two of Jesus' friends were walking on the road between Jerusalem and Emmaus where they met Jesus. They were happy to see Jesus! Jesus was alive!*

Dramatic Play Activity: Prepare for dinner.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Ingredients for one recipe of play dough: flour (1 cup), salt (½ cup), cream of tartar (2 teaspoons), water (1 cup), cooking oil (2 tablespoons), food coloring (liquid, not gel), peppermint flavoring; cafeteria trays; snack-size zipper baggies (1 per child); plastic dishes; eating utensils; toy pots and pans; cookie cutters (fruit and vegetable cutters)

Preparation: Prior to the session, make "Surprise Play Dough." One recipe will be enough play dough for six children. Follow these instructions: Mix the dry ingredients in a mixing bowl. Add the water and oil and stir until well mixed. Pour the mixture into a non-stick skillet and cook over medium heat until the mixture forms a ball. Mix in a few drops of peppermint flavoring. Remove the play dough from the pan and knead it on waxed paper until smooth. Divide the play dough into six three-inch balls. Poke a finger hole in each ball and place a couple of drops of food coloring in the hole. Gently close up the hole so the food coloring is sealed inside the ball. Place each of the balls into its' own plastic bag. Remove the air and seal the top carefully. Make enough "Surprise Play Dough" for each child to have a three-inch ball.

Guide the activity: As children enter the dramatic play area, give each child a bag of play dough. Instruct the children to leave the top sealed and gently squeeze the bag until they see the food coloring emerge. Continue squeezing it until the color is evenly distributed. When this is accomplished, allow the children to remove the play dough from the bags. Place it on cafeteria trays and suggest that the kids make pretend food for their meal using the cookie cutters. Say, *Let's make food that the men may have eaten when they were with Jesus.* Suggest foods such as, grapes, cheese, bread, and other fruits and vegetables.

Bible story conversation: Talk with threes and fours about the men sharing a meal with Jesus. Say, *While Jesus was with the men, Jesus explained the wonderful things he had done* (Luke 24:27).

Mission Activity: Paint a cardboard box or side of a church building with water.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Resource Item 28: Mission Story and Picture; 8 ½" x 11" white copy paper; refrigerator, washer or dryer box; paint brushes (small regular house-painting brushes); buckets for water; painting smocks or large shirts; drop cloth (plastic)

Prepare: Make a copy of the mission story and picture. Pick up a large cardboard box from an appliance store. The flaps could be shaped like the roof of a house. Gather paintbrushes and buckets for water. If possible, find a wall of your church building that your children could safely go outside and paint.

Introduce and tell the Mission story: *Today, our mission story highlights the town of West, Texas.* Tell as much of the story as you think your children could understand. Show the picture after telling the story. Many houses were destroyed so many people came to help the people in West. Some of them help paint the houses. We're going to paint today!

Prayer: *Dear God, please continue helping the people in West, Texas as they rebuild their houses.*

Nature Activity: Make trail mix.

Resources needed: Resource Item 4: Allergy Alert Poster; O-shaped cereal; small marshmallows; raisins; pretzels sticks; chocolate coated candy pieces (optional); medium size bowls (5); 6-8 oz. foam or paper cups (1 per child); small scoops or spoons; snack-size zipper baggies (2 per child)

Preparation: Write each child's name on a snack-size baggie. Place the five ingredients in medium size bowls. Place the bowls in the middle of the table so the children can walk around the edge and scoop the items in their cups. Place smaller spoons in the marshmallows and candy pieces. The children need only a small amount of these items.

Guide the activity: Give each child a cup. Instruct the children to walk around the table and scoop the items into their cup. Make sure they only put one scoop of each item in their cup. Take the child's cup and pour it into a snack baggie with the child's name on it. Then, let the child take their cup and go around the table to make trail mix for a friend. Pour the cup into a snack baggie for the child's friend. Save the snack bags for snack time.

Bible story conversation: As the children make the trail mix, say, *We have had such a fun time this week learning about Jesus. Jesus wants us to share the stories we learn from the Bible with our friends. What is your favorite story that we learned this week? We can tell our friends these stories when we share our trail mix treats with them!*

Puzzle Activity: Match food pictures with colored paper.

Team member responsible: _____

Resources needed: Pictures of food items cut from magazines (limit pictures to 4-6 colors) or stickers; 9" x 12" construction paper (same colors as food pictures)

Preparation: Cut pictures of food from magazines, food advertisements or calendars. Tape the construction paper on a table or lay them on the floor.

Guide the activity: Guide children to match the pictures of food with the appropriate color of paper. Encourage children to work together.

Bible story conversation: Say, *The men who met Jesus were happy to see him. We are happy to see our friends, too.*

Our Daily Bread
(Snack Time)

Snack: Eat trail mix.

Resources needed: Trail mix bags made in the nature center; paper cups and pitcher of water

Preparation: Pour water in paper cups and place each child's bag of trail mix at the table.

Guide the activity: Say a thank you prayer for the trail mix and water.

Bible story conversation: As the children enjoy the trail mix, say, *We have had such a fun time this week learning about Jesus. Jesus wants us to share the stories we learn from the Bible with our friends. What is your favorite Bible story that you heard this week? We can tell our friends these stories when we share our trail mix treats with them!*

Clean-up Time: Ring the bell to signal clean-up time. Give the groups five to seven minutes to transition to the closing activity.

Transition to Group Time: Walk around the room as you encourage the children to help in the clean-up process. As the children finish, ask them to follow you to the group time area.

We Journey with Jesus
(Bible Story Group Time)

Resources needed: Resource Item 29: Teaching Picture: *Go and Tell Others*; Resource Item 30: Bible Verse Markers; 8 ½" x 11" cardstock or copy paper (3 colors); basket and craft sticks (from previous sessions)

Preparation: Print the Bible verse markers (**Resource Item 30**) on three colors of cardstock or copy paper. Cut the verses apart. Place them in the Bible at the correct references. Make one verse per child. Place the craft sticks with the children's names in the basket.

Tell the Bible story: Open your Bible to Luke 24 and tell the Bible story. Try to be very familiar with the story so you are telling it and not simply reading it!

Jesus Teaches Us to Tell Others About Jesus: *Go and Tell Others*
(Luke 24:13-49)

"What a day we have had! When I woke up this morning I did not think I would see Jesus. I was very surprised when we saw and talked with him," Cleopas said to his friend.

Two of Jesus' friends were walking from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus. They began talking about all the things that happened that week. Suddenly, they looked up and a man began to walk with them. The man talked about Jesus and all the wonderful things Jesus did. Cleopas and his friend liked to listen to this man. He seemed like their very best friend.

When they got near their home, Cleopas said, "Please come to my house and eat with us. We want to talk to you some more."

The man went to Cleopas' house. Before they ate, the man began to thank God for the food. Just as he began to speak, Cleopas recognized who he was. This was Jesus! Jesus was alive and eating at his house. Cleopas and his friend were very happy. This was their best friend. This was Jesus.

Review the Bible story and read Bible verses: Review the story by showing the picture and asking questions such as these: *Who are the people in the picture? What are they doing? How did the men feel when they realized that the stranger was really Jesus?* Choose a stick from the basket. Invite the child to select a Bible verse marker (**Resource Item 30**) from the Bible. Whisper the Bible verse to the child and prompt the child to "read" it to the group. Ask the group to repeat the Bible verse. Continue pulling sticks until each child has a Bible verse.

Make a life application: Ask the children to name people they love. Explain to them that the men were happy to see Jesus because they loved him. Talk with preschoolers about ways they can show others we love them.

Pray: Thank God for Jesus and that Jesus loves us. Mention each child's name in the prayer.

Journey on Down the Road
(Closing Activity)

Resources needed: Resource Item 31: Footprints; 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock

Preparation: Copy the footprints on 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock. Cut out the footprints

Guide the activity: Show one of the footprints to the children and read the statement and question. Say, *When you get home, you need to ask your mom or dad to read the words on the footprint. Then you can tell them the answer!* Place a footprint with the child's things.

Closing activity: As you wait on a parent to come, ask the children what they have enjoyed most this week in VBS! Choose a stick and have the child stand and tell everyone.