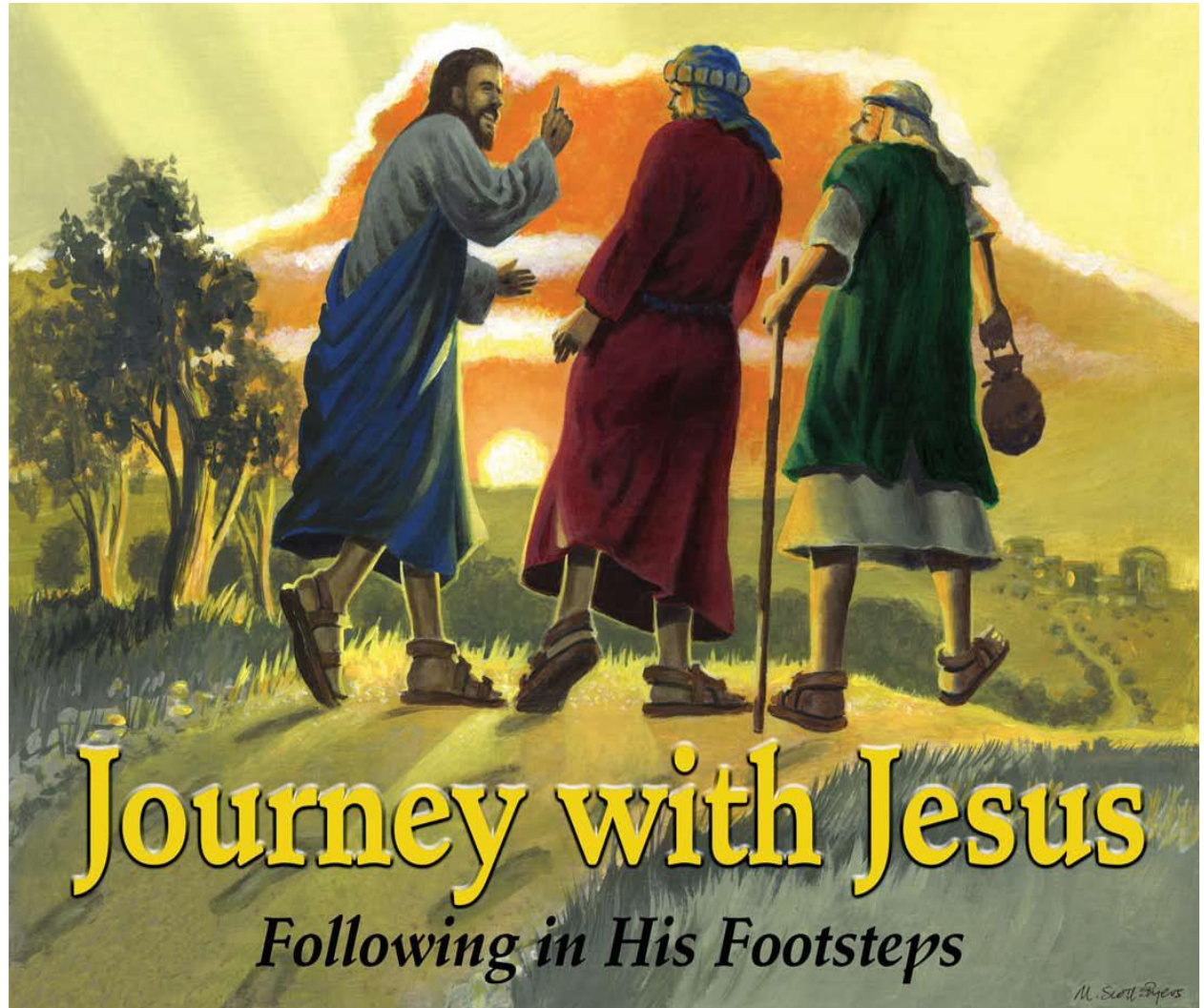


Younger Children Bible Teacher (Entering Second and Third Grades)



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Vacation Bible School

Younger Children Bible Teacher (Entering Second and Third Grades)

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>The Resurrection</i> (Matthew 28:1-12; Mark 16:1-11; John 20:1-18; Luke 24:1-12)
Session 5:	Jesus Teaches Us to Witness: <i>Go and Tell Others</i> (Matthew 28: 16-20; Luke 24:13-53; Acts 1:1-11)

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Session 2: Material adapted from the Preteen Bible Study Unit 12, Session 1. Bronwyn Stanley was the writer.

Session 3: Material adapted from the Middle Children's Bible Study Unit 5, Session 3. Marci Parrott was the writer.

Session 4: Material adapted from the Preteen Children's Bible Study Unit 8, Session 3. Pam Shinogle was the writer.

Session 5: Material adapted from the Preteen Children's Bible Study Unit 8, Session 4. Betty Funderburk was the writer.

Derema also wrote the **Unit Bible Verse Activity** and the **Small Group Bible Learning Activity**.

The **Mission Stories** were written by David Scott, Director of BOUNCE Ministry through Texas Baptists. www.texasbaptists.org/bounce

The **Welcome and Bible Skills Activities** were written by Charlotte Davidson.

The **Recreation Ideas** were written by Jana Cummings.

VBS Younger Children Curriculum Overview

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 5:17-26)	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>The Resurrection</i> (Matthew 28:1-12; Mark 16:1-11; John 20:1-18; Luke 24:1-12)	Session Title and Bible Story Jesus Teaches Us to Witness: <i>Go and Tell Others</i> (Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:13-53; Acts 1:1-11)
Unit Bible Verse But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).	Unit Bible Verse But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).	Unit Bible Verse But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).	Unit Bible Verse But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).	Unit Bible Verse But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).
Daily Bible Verse But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother (Proverbs 18:24b).	Daily Bible Verse Love your neighbor as yourself (Luke 10:27b).	Daily Bible Verse My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you (John 15:12).	Daily Bible Verse But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God... (John 20:31a).	Daily Bible Verse But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).
Teaching Aim To help children learn from Jesus that they can help people who hurt	Teaching Aim To help children know God wants us to show love and concern for all people	Teaching Aim To help children learn from Jesus how to love all people	Teaching Aim To help children know that Jesus is the risen Savior	Teaching Aim To help children learn that Jesus returned to heaven and commissioned his disciples to continue his work

Small Group Activities <i>Our Journey Begins!</i> (Welcome and Unit Bible Verse Activity) Create a map of Palestine <i>Sharing Our Journey</i> (Week-long Small Group Activity) Create a newspaper	Small Group Activities <i>Our Journey Begins!</i> (Welcome and Unit Bible Verse Activity) Create a map of Palestine <i>Sharing Our Journey</i> (Week-long Small Group Activity) Create a newspaper	Small Group Activities <i>Our Journey Begins!</i> (Welcome and Unit Bible Verse Activity) Create a map of Palestine <i>Sharing Our Journey</i> (Week-long Small Group Activity) Create a newspaper	Small Group Activities <i>Our Journey Begins!</i> (Welcome and Unit Bible Verse Activity) Create a map of Palestine <i>Sharing Our Journey</i> (Week-long Small Group Activity) Create a newspaper	Small Group Activities <i>Our Journey Begins!</i> (Welcome and Unit Bible Verse Activity) Create a map of Palestine <i>Sharing Our Journey</i> (Week-long Small Group Activity) Create a newspaper
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Large Group Activities <i>We Journey with Jesus</i> (Tell the Bible Story) <i>Remembering Our Journey</i> (Review Bible Story) Play a review game	Large Group Activities <i>We Journey with Jesus</i> (Tell the Bible Story) <i>Remembering Our Journey</i> (Review Bible Story) Play a review game	Large Group Activities <i>We Journey with Jesus</i> (Tell the Bible Story) <i>Remembering Our Journey</i> (Review Bible Story) Play a review game	Large Group Activities <i>We Journey with Jesus</i> (Tell the Bible Story) <i>Remembering Our Journey</i> (Review Bible Story) Play a review game	Large Group Activities <i>We Journey with Jesus</i> (Tell the Bible Story) <i>Remembering Our Journey</i> (Review Bible Story) Play a review game
Rotating Activities <i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> <i>Our Daily Bread</i> (Snack) <i>Pick up Your Feet</i> (Recreation) <i>Unroll the Scroll</i> (Daily Bible Verse Skills) Make a scroll <i>Other Mission Journeys</i> (Mission Story) Learn about BOUNCE Ministry	Rotating Activities <i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> <i>Our Daily Bread</i> (Snack) <i>Pick up Your Feet</i> (Recreation) <i>Unroll the Scroll</i> (Daily Bible Verse Skills) Make a scroll <i>Other Mission Journeys</i> (Mission Story) BOUNCE Ministry in Waco, Texas	Rotating Activities <i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> <i>Our Daily Bread</i> (Snack) <i>Pick up Your Feet</i> (Recreation) <i>Unroll the Scroll</i> (Daily Bible Verse Skills) Make a scroll <i>Other Mission Journeys</i> (Mission Story) BOUNCE Ministry in San Marcos and Wimberly, Texas	Rotating Activities <i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> <i>Our Daily Bread</i> (Snack) <i>Pick up Your Feet</i> (Recreation) <i>Unroll the Scroll</i> (Daily Bible Verse Skills) Make a scroll <i>Other Mission Journeys</i> (Mission Story) BOUNCE Ministry in Dove Springs, Texas	Rotating Activities <i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> <i>Our Daily Bread</i> (Snack) <i>Pick up Your Feet</i> (Recreation) <i>Unroll the Scroll</i> (Daily Bible Verse Skills) Make a scroll <i>Other Mission Journeys</i> (Mission Story) BOUNCE Ministry in West, Texas

How Do I Use This Guide?

Basic Information for the Teaching Team Members:

- **Unit Title:** The main focus of teaching for Vacation Bible School.
- **Unit Bible Verse:** The focal verse for the week of Vacation Bible School.
- **Bible Story and Scripture:** The Bible story for each day and the passage in the Bible from which the Bible story is taken.
- **Teaching 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 teaching aim is the key-organizing element for the session.
- **Daily Bible Verse:** A Bible verse that children will memorize and learn how it can impact their everyday life.

Preparing and Planning for the Child:

- **Bible Background:** This section gives the teachers an in-depth devotion for each day. Teachers should be prepared spiritually for each day of VBS.
- ***Our Journey Begins! (Welcome Activity):*** This activity is a small group activity led by the teachers. The children will be divided into groups by the color of the nametags and will remain with the same teacher and children all week. Small groups should include four to six children. For churches with less than ten children, one or two groups could be formed. Each group of children will create a mural that will follow Jesus' journey. A plan sheet is available in the teaching resources (**Resource Item 30**).
- **Unit Bible Verse Activity (End of Welcome Activity or beginning of Large Group):** Children may remain with their small group for this activity or move to the large group and complete this activity in the large group. This section includes games and activities that help boys and girls learn and memorize the unit Bible verse. A plan sheet is available in the teaching resources (**Resource Item 30**).
- ***We Journey with Jesus (Large Group Bible Story):*** Children will come together in a large group for the Bible Story. This is the heart of Bible study, where the Bible story is presented and children are challenged to connect with the teaching aim. A plan sheet is available in the teaching resources (**Resource Item 31**).
- ***Remembering Our Journey (Review the Bible story):*** These activities recap the Bible story and the facts necessary to make application to their lives. A plan sheet is available in the teaching resources (**Resource Item 31**).
- ***Sharing Our Journey (Small Group Week-long activity):*** This activity is a small group activity led by the teachers. The children will return to their same small groups to work on this week-long activity. A plan sheet is available in the teaching resources (**Resource Item 32**).
- ***Journey Through the Marketplace (Rotating Activities):*** These small groups include *The Daily Bread (Snack)*, *Pick up your Feet (Recreation)*, *Unroll the Scroll (Bible Skills)*, and *Other Mission Journeys (Missions)*. These activities may be set up in different areas of the church. The children rotate to each of these areas. The teachers repeat the same material for each group of children. Or, the activities may be set up in the classroom and the children can rotate from table to table. Additional teachers could be secured for Bible Skills, Missions, Snack, and Recreation. These activities would be approximately twenty minutes each day. A plan sheet is available in the teaching resources (**Resource Item 33**).

- ***Journey On Down the Road (Closing Activity):*** This activity may be completed in the small groups at the end of the day or at the end of the large group Bible story time. The children will think of a question from the Bible story and a life application activity that will integrate the biblical truth into their lives. If there is not ample time for this activity, combine it with one of the other small group activities.
- **Resource Materials:** Resource materials are included to aid teachers in preparing for and teaching VBS. They will be numbered and included in the curriculum. They may be downloaded as separate files.

Rotating Activities:

- ***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. Suggested ideas for games involving team play may be found on the VBS 2016 page at www.baptistwaypress.org.
- ***Unroll the Scroll (Bible Skills):*** This activity includes fun games that focus on helping the boys and girls learn the daily Bible verses.
- ***Other Mission Journeys (Missions):*** A mission story is provided for each session. The mission stories highlight the **BOUNCE**. Each day the children will hear stories about projects performed by youth all across Texas.
- ***Journey to Worship (Worship time with all children):*** This large group experience for all children may be at the beginning or end of VBS each day. The pastor, children's minister, worship leader, or children's leader will lead worship each day. Children will be led to worship God through songs, scripture, giving an offering, and prayer. The mission story could be told during this worship time. The worship time should be fun and energetic. A PowerPoint® presentation and the ***Journey to Worship*** script are available to download from the VBS 2016 link on the www.baptistwaypress.org website.

Suggested Schedule for Vacation Bible School

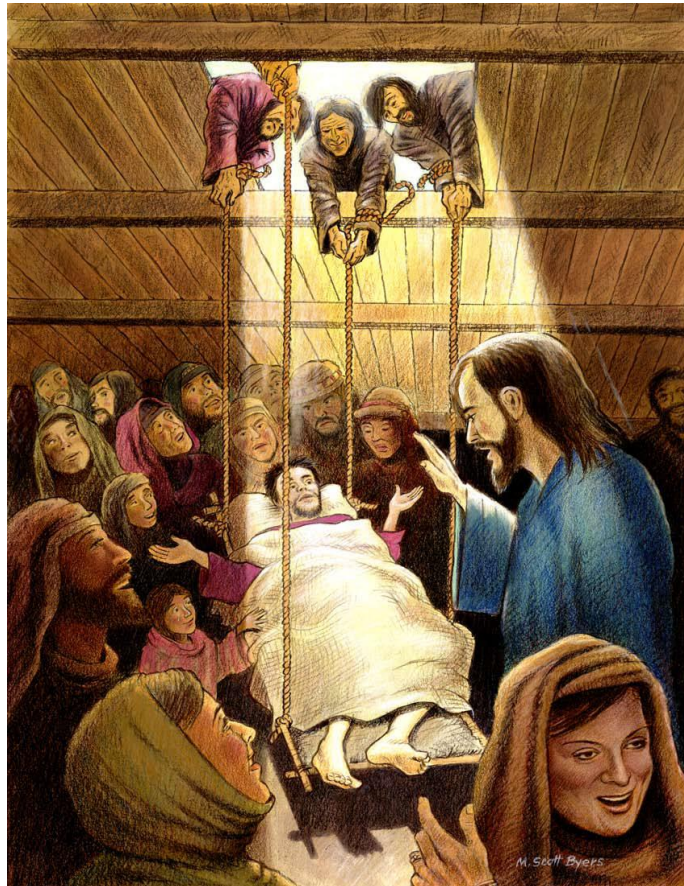
(The following schedule assumes you will have three-hour sessions.

Adjust the schedule to fit your particular situation.)

Our Journey with Jesus—Following in His Footsteps

9:00-9:15 (15 minutes)	<i>Our Journey Begins!</i> (Welcome and Unit Bible Verse Activity Small Groups
9:15-9:45 (30 minutes)	<i>We Journey with Jesus</i> (Tell Bible Story) and <i>Remembering Our Journey</i> (Review Bible Story) Large Group
9:50-10:10 (20 minutes)	<i>Sharing Our Journey</i> (Week-long Activity) Small Groups
10:15-10:35 (20 minutes)	<i>Our Daily Bread</i> (Snack) and <i>Pick Up Your Feet</i> (Recreation) Rotating Activities
10:40-11:00 (20 minutes)	<i>Unroll the Scroll</i> (Bible Skills) Rotating Activity
11:05-11:25 (20 minutes)	<i>Other Mission Journeys</i> (Mission Story) Rotating Activity
11:30-11:50 (20 minutes)	<i>Journey to Worship</i> Combined Grades in Joint Worship
11:55-12:00	Return to class for parent pick-up

Session 1



Bible Story and Scripture:

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

Unit Bible Verse:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Daily Bible Verse:

But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother
(Proverbs 18:24b).

Teaching Aim:

Children will learn from Jesus that they can help people who hurt

Prepare to Teach

Study the Bible

Bible Background: Luke 5:17-26

Word spread quickly that Jesus had returned to Capernaum (Mark 2:1). Situated on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum served as a major center of trade and commerce in Galilee. After being rejected in his hometown of Nazareth, Jesus had moved to Capernaum making it "his own town" (Matthew 9:1).

Capernaum served as the base of Jesus' ministry (4:12-16). Its socially diverse population was given many unique opportunities to hear Jesus' message firsthand and witness Jesus' awesome power and love (Mark 1:32-34).

As people learned that Jesus had come home, they hurried to the house where he was staying. They crowded the street outside the small house as they struggled to see and hear Jesus. Among the curious and devoted followers were the Pharisees and scribes. These teachers of the law had come from surrounding towns and villages to investigate the stories they had heard about the miracles being performed by the popular teacher.

As Jesus was in the house speaking, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed friend on a mat. Unable to penetrate the crowd, the men climbed the stairs to the roof of the house. The normal houses in a Palestinian village at this time usually consisted of a single room, box-shaped, made from adobe or sun-dried bricks. The flat roof, accessed by an outside staircase, sometimes contained a guest room. The roof was used for drying fruit or grain or even for sleeping in the summer. The roof was usually made of branches laid on wooden beams plastered over with clay. The homes of more affluent Palestinians would have had a tile roof. Luke tells that the house in which Jesus was teaching had a tile roof. It would have been sturdy enough to walk on, yet easy to break through to get into the room below.

The four men made a hole in the roof and lowered their friend on his mat into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. Recognizing the faith of the four friends, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Friend, your sins are forgiven" (Luke 5:20).

This bold statement certainly did not sit well with the Jewish religious leaders. In their theology, a person could be an instrument for healing, but only God had the power to forgive sin. Yet, here was a man claiming to do both! They began expressing hostility toward Jesus. They did not believe that Jesus was God's Son, but just an ordinary man who claimed to have God's power. The Pharisees called this healing blasphemy. Blasphemy involves using the divine name of God in a way that is dishonoring to him. Although the Pharisees were teachers of the law, they knew little of the character of God. They did not recognize Jesus as the Son of God.

The Scripture says, "Jesus knew what they were thinking... (5:22), when he responded to their silent accusations. Through this miracle, Jesus was trying to help people understand he had God's power to both forgive sins and heal. The evidence was right before their eyes, and somehow they

still refused to believe.

Jesus commanded the man to get up, pick up his mat, and go home. The use of the word "immediately" (5:25) helps us know the man obeyed without hesitation. He left praising God. Everyone who saw what had taken place was filled with awe and recognized they had seen the power of God at work that day. Jesus healed physically and restored spiritually.

Prepare the Room

Resources needed: Resource Item 1: VBS Poster; 11" x 17" or 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock; 5' to 6' bulletin board or wall space; **Resource Item 2: Session Title and Bible Verse Posters;** 8 ½" x 11" copy paper or cardstock (5 colors); die-cut footprints or 12" x 18" black construction paper (enough to go around the edge of the bulletin board or focal wall); **Resource Item 3: Unit Bible Verse;** 8 ½" x 11" copy paper or cardstock (any color); **Resource Items 8, 15, 19, 24, and 27: Teaching Pictures of each Bible story** (available for free at www.texasbaptists.org). Directions for download may be found on each teaching picture resource.

Prepare: Enlarge the VBS Poster to 11" x 17" or use as 8 ½" x 11" size to promote VBS. The VBS Poster may also be used as a theme picture to go in the center of the bulletin board or on the door. Make a copy of the unit Bible verse (**Resource Item 3**) and place it below the theme picture. Make one copy of the session titles and Bible verses (**Resource Item 2**) on five colors of copy paper or cardstock. The teaching pictures for each day may be placed above the session titles and daily Bible verses on the bulletin board.

Guide the Session

Resources needed: Resource Item 5: Nametags; 8 ½" x 11" white copy paper; 8 ½" x 11" colored cardstock (3-6 colors, depending on number of teachers); permanent marker; lanyards or twine

Prepare: Print the nametags (**Resource Item 5**) on white copy paper. Glue or tape the white 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. Attach the lanyards or twine to the nametags.

As children enter the room, make sure each child is enrolled and has a nametag. Divide the children into small groups according to their nametag colors. Explain to the children that they will stay with the same teacher and small group each day for the welcome and small group activities. They will rotate for *Our Daily Bread (Snack)*, *Pick up Your Feet (Recreation)*, *Unroll the Scroll (Bible Skills)*, and *Other Children's Journeys (Missions)*. These four

different rotations may be in the classroom or in different classrooms in your church. Different teachers may lead these rotating activities. Decide which will work best for your setting.

Small Group Activity

Our Journey Begins! (Welcome Activity)

This activity is designed to be simple and fun, while at the same time giving the students an overview of the land where Jesus lived and ministered. A map of Palestine will need to be drawn by the teacher before VBS begins. Small groups will add details and special features to the map each day.

Session 1: Add the Unit Title and Bodies of Water

Resources needed: **Resource Item 4: Basic Map Outline of Palestine;** 8 ½" x 11" transparency; **Resource Item 6: Map of Palestine;** light brown butcher paper (4' tall by 3' wide, 1 piece per small group); assorted colored pencils; blue, black, and dark brown markers; glue or glue sticks; cellophane paper (dark and light blue) or blue highlighters; die-cut fish or 8 ½" x 11" construction paper (orange and yellow); scissors; masking tape (wide, heavy-duty)

Prepare: Make a copy of the basic outline of Palestine (**Resource Item 4**) on a transparency. Using an overhead projector, enlarge the outline to fit on the butcher paper. Include the regions and bodies of water but do not label them. Include the Mediterranean or Great Sea on the west coast of Palestine also. Tape the map to a wall low enough for the children to easily reach.

Guide the activity: Show the children the map of Palestine (**Resource Item 6**). Explain that it is the land where Jesus lived and traveled while he was alive on earth. Explain that each small group will add the places where Jesus traveled each day. At the end of the week, the map will be completed. Assign one or two children in your group to do each of the following jobs:

1. Write the unit title (**Journey with Jesus—Following in His Footsteps**) across the top of the map.
2. Label **The Mediterranean or Great Sea**. Add blue cellophane to the sea or use a blue highlighter.
3. Label **The Sea of Galilee**. Add the blue cellophane to the sea or use a blue highlighter.
4. Label **The Dead or Salt Sea**. Add the blue cellophane to the sea or use a blue highlighter.
5. Add die-cut or hand-drawn fish to all three of the seas.
6. Locate the city of **Capernaum** on the map of Palestine (**Resource Item 6**). Place a small dot to designate Capernaum. Write the word Capernaum next to the dot. Place a house sticker or draw a small house to represent the story of "The Four Friends."

Encourage the children to work together as they add the features to the map. Say, *Today our Bible story takes place in the city of Capernaum. Jesus was teaching in a home. The four friends found a way for Jesus to heal their friend!*

Transition to Unit Bible Verse Activity or Large Group

You may follow the directions for teaching the unit Bible verse in your small groups after completing the welcome activity or the children can move to the large group and learn the verse as a large group. The number of children attending will be a guide to help you choose.)

Unit Bible Verse Activity

Resources Needed: **Resource Item 7: Unit Bible Verse Phrases;** 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock; Bible; **Resource Item 6: Map of Palestine**

Prepare: Print the unit Bible verse phrases (**Resource Item 7**) on white cardstock. Have the Bible and map available.

Teach: Locate Acts 1:8 in the Bible and read the verse to the children. Draw attention to the unit Bible verse on the bulletin board and read it again. Explain the meaning of the verse: *Jesus was telling his followers that their job was to go both near and far and tell everyone about him. He told them the Holy Spirit would come and give them power to be his witnesses.* Show the map of Palestine and point out the location of Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria. Share that this job of being his witness also belongs to people living today who have believed in him. Show the map or globe of the world. Explain that we are commanded to go to every place in the world and tell about Jesus. Point out and name two or three places that may be familiar to children. Invite responses from children to name a place and allow them to locate it. Provide help if needed. Say, *It is our job to go into our entire world and tell about Jesus.* Show the unit Bible verse phrase cards one at a time and read the phrases aloud in unison several times. Be sure to say the reference after the last phrase. Tell the children they will practice this verse everyday so that they can memorize it.

Large Group Bible Story

We Journey With Jesus!
(Tell the Bible Story)

Resources needed: **Resource Item 8: Teaching Picture: *The Four Friends*;** Bible

Prepare: Place a marker in a Bible at Luke 5:17-26. Display the teaching picture (**Resource Item 8**).

Teach: Direct children to name one of their friends. Guide a discussion about what a friend is like and what one does to be a friend. Say, *Our Bible story today is about four friends who worked together to help another one of their friends.*

Jesus Teaches Us to Be a Friend: *The Four Friends* (Luke 5:17-26)

Open your Bible to Luke 5:17-26 and tell the story from memory. Tell the children that this story is found in the book of Luke in the New Testament, which is in the Gospel division.

News spread quickly that Jesus was in town. People from Capernaum and the surrounding area hurried to the house where he was staying. Soon the crowd grew very large, and many people were forced to stand outside and listen as Jesus taught. Among those in the crowd were Pharisees scribes and Jewish religious leaders who had come to hear what Jesus had to say.

Four men came carrying their paralyzed friend on a mat. He had never been able to walk in his whole life. The men tried to squeeze past the crowd, but could not get through all the people gathered around the house. They were determined to get their friend to Jesus so they came up with an idea. The men climbed the outside stairs to the roof. They began digging in the roof and removed the tiles until they made a hole large enough to lower their friend through it to Jesus. As the crowd watched, the men lowered the mat into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. Jesus saw the great faith of the four friends and told the paralyzed man, "Friend, your sins are forgiven" (5:20).

The religious leaders did not speak aloud, but were thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (5:21). They did not believe that Jesus was God's Son. They thought he was dishonoring or blaspheming God.

Even though they did not say it aloud, Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? (5:22-23). He told them that he was doing this to show them that he truly was God's Son and that he had the power on earth to forgive sins.

Turning to the man lying on the mat, Jesus said, "I tell you, get up, take your mat, and go home" (5:24). Immediately the man stood, rolled up his mat, and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and praised God saying, "We have seen remarkable things today" (5:26).

Closing: As time allows, guide a discussion of the story by referring to the picture of the Bible story. Pray, thanking God for the gift of friends and asking him to help us be good friends to everyone this week.

Remembering Our Journey (Review Bible Story)

Resources needed: **Resource Item 9: Map of Palestine Game Board;** transparency; poster board; **Resource Item 10: Review Question Cards;** 8 ½" by 11" red cardstock; 8 ½" x 11" cardstock (white); **Resource Item 11: Extra Game Cards;** 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock; black permanent marker; gift bag with handles (small); set of colored dry erase markers (4-6 colors)

Prepare: Make a transparency of the game board (**Resource Item 9**). Using an overhead projector to enlarge the map, trace the map on the poster board with a pencil, then with a permanent marker. Laminate or cover the poster board in clear contact plastic. Copy the review questions (**Resource Item 10**) on red cardstock. Copy the extra game cards (**Resource Item 11**) on white cardstock. These are cards with directions only, such as, move ahead or back one space, lose a turn, and take an extra turn. Laminate the cards and cut apart. Place them in the gift bag. The children may be divided by nametag color or however you wish to divide them. Each team will have a colored dry erase marker that will represent their team as they play the review game. The teams may be changed from day to day if desired. NOTE: Some questions may be removed for younger children if needed.

Teach: Give each team one dry erase marker. Place the laminated game board on an easel or the wall. Have the teams sit close together on the floor. The first team sends a child to reach into the bag and remove a question or direction card. The team works together to answer the question or to follow the directions on the card. If correct, the child counts the number of squares indicated on the card and places a dot with the dry erase marker on the game board. If incorrect, Team 2 gets a chance to answer. Continue until one team has answered correctly. If no team is correct, the leader will give the correct answer and place the card back into the bag. If answered correctly, do not return the card to the bag. If Team 1 answers correctly, the next question will go to Team 2. Continue until the "Finish" space is reached. Questions may be returned to the bag after all have been answered if a team has not reached the "finish" space. Congratulate both teams for their good work.

Each day new questions will be added on different colors of cardstock. After the questions have been answered on the current story, those from the previous stories will be added to the bag.

Questions, Answers, and Number of Spaces to Move for Review Game:

1. Where was Jesus teaching? (in a house in Capernaum) **1**
2. Who came to hear Jesus teach? (large crowds, religious leaders-Pharisees and scribes) **2**
3. What stopped the four friends from entering the house? (the large crowd) **1**
4. What was wrong with the man brought to Jesus? (paralyzed-could not walk) **1**
5. How did the four men get their friend to Jesus? (went on roof—pulled off tiles—lowered the man on his mat through a hole in the roof) **2**
6. What did Jesus do first when he saw the paralyzed man? (forgave his sins) **3**
7. What did the religious leaders think when Jesus forgave the paralyzed man's sins? (They thought he was blaspheming against God.) **3**
8. Why did Jesus heal the paralyzed man? (So everyone would know he had the power on earth to forgive sins.) **2**
9. What did the paralyzed man do after Jesus healed him? (immediately stood up, picked up his mat, and walked away praising God) **2**
10. What did the people do after seeing Jesus heal the man? (amazed and praised God) **1**

Transition to Small Group Activities: Each day, the children will return to their small groups (same groups as welcome activity) for the week-long Bible activity. Call the children by name

tag color or call the teacher's name to dismiss the children to their small groups. After completing the small group activity in the room, they will rotate to different teachers and rooms for ***Our Daily Bread (Snack)***, ***Pick up Your Feet (Recreation)***, ***Unroll the Scroll (Bible Skills)***, and ***Other Mission Journeys (Missions)***. These four different rotations may be in the classroom or in different classrooms in your church. Decide which will work best for your setting.

Small Group Bible Activity

Sharing Our Journey (Week-long Activity)

Sharing Our Journey! Newspaper

Purpose: To help boys and girls understand and personalize Bible stories by researching, writing, photographing, and applying creativity to the stories

Description: The boys and girls will study the four Bible stories from Sessions 1, 2, 3, and 5. The group will create the front page of a newspaper with articles, maps, advertisements, and pictures to summarize the stories. Teachers will study the Bible material for Sessions 1, 2, 3, and 5 and each will choose a story before VBS (In Session 5, the focus will be on the Emmaus Road event.). The children will remain in their small groups as they were at the beginning of the day. These groups were formed based on their nametag color. Each group will create a newspaper (front page only) to share with the large group on Friday. The newspaper will focus on the story selected previously by each teacher. Additions will be made daily for the first four days.

Resources Needed:

- Bibles
- **Resource Items 8, 15, 19, and 27** (Teaching Pictures of Bible stories from Sessions 1, 2, 3, and 5)
- Poster board (4 white)
- Pencils
- Rulers
- Yardsticks
- Black permanent markers (variety of point sizes)
- Packages of watercolor markers
- Biblical costumes (cloth pieces for head coverings, tunics, narrow strips of cloth to serve as belts and headbands) 1 per child
- Digital camera
- **Resource Item 6: Map of Palestine** (one copy per group)
- Sample newspapers
- White copy paper (multiple sheets for notes, writing, editing, etc.)

Prepare: Mark your Bible at the story you have selected. Place the map of Palestine and the

teaching picture representing your story where they are visible to your group. Place other resources in a central location so that all four groups have access as needed.

Teach: Welcome your group and explain that they will stay and work together each day at this time to develop and complete a project that will help them understand one of the Bible stories they will hear in VBS. Tell them they will be able to use all of their skills and talents in developing the project.

Briefly tell the story you selected using the Bible, map, and teaching picture.

Guide the Bible activity: Show a newspaper sample. Choose a front page of a newspaper with appropriate news articles. Cut out inappropriate articles. Discuss how a main story gives the: who, what, when, where, why, and how of an event. Say, *The words tell information and may include some quotes from the people who were there.* Share that often pictures are included to help the reader understand the event more clearly. Also, a map of the area near the event may be drawn which will help the reader. Continue by saying, *Newspapers present advertisements (ads) for products and items readers need or want.* Point out the name of the newspaper and its location on the page. Say, *Many newspapers include the name of the town in which they are printed.*

Explain that their group will work together to make a newspaper, which tells about the Bible story they have just heard. Use the map of Palestine to reinforce the location of the Bible story. Their work for today is to select the title of their newspaper. Some suggestions include: *The Capernaum Chronicle; The Palestine Post; The Samaria Star; The Jericho Journal; The Jerusalem Times; The Emmaus Reporter; or The Judean Tribune.* These are only suggestions and any title created by the group will be acceptable so long as it reflects the location of their particular story.

When the title has been selected, select a child to write the title across the top of the poster board in pencil and then trace over the pencil in black permanent marker. Tell the children that they will add to their newspaper each day.

Journey Through the Marketplace (Rotating Activities)

Our 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)

Suggested activities may be found on the VBS 2016 page at www.baptistwaypress.org.

Unroll the Scroll (Daily Bible Verse Skills)

Bible Skills Activity: This activity is designed to be fun and help the children learn the unit and daily Bible verses. At the end of the week, the children will complete a Bible scroll including the unit and daily Bible verses. The Bible verse puzzles are provided as a resource item. Each day, the children will add their completed Bible verse puzzle to the previous day.

Resources needed: Resource Item 12: Unit and Daily Bible Verse Puzzles; 8 ½" x 11" white copy paper (8 sheets per child) one per child; pencils (1 per child); 12-16 inch dowel sticks, dry cleaner hanger cardboard tubes, or extra long drinking straws (2 per child); clear tape; glue or glue sticks; chenille stems (1 per child); Bibles (3 or 4 per group)

Prepare: Before VBS begins, teachers should make copies of the Bible verse puzzles (**Resource Item 12**), one set per child. Decide which scroll rollers you will use – dowel sticks, cardboard tubes or straws. Cut the rollers if needed. Tape one roller to the left side of the unit Bible verse puzzle.

Guide the activity: Give each child a partially assembled Bible verse scroll and ask the child to write their name on the back of the paper. Explain that they will be completing the scroll this week. Review the unit Bible verse together. Talk about the location of the unit verse in the Bible. Encourage the children to find Acts 1:8 (unit verse) in a Bible. Say, *The book of Acts is in the history division of the New Testament*. Set aside the scrolls. Give each child a copy of the session one daily Bible verse puzzle and a pencil. Explain that today's puzzle uses a secret code. Use the code at the top of the page to write down today's Bible verse. For example, when they see a "☞," students should write the letter "a" on the line above it. Encourage the children to begin to break the code. Offer help as needed. Once a child has completed their daily Bible verse puzzle, show them how to add it to their scroll by taping it to the right of the unit Bible Verse page. Roll up the scroll when finished. Encourage the children to find Proverbs 18:24b (daily Bible verse) in a Bible. Say, *The book of Proverbs is in the poetry division of the Old Testament*.

Other Mission Journeys (Missions)

Resources needed: Resource Item 13: Mission Story and Picture; 8 ½" x 11" white copy paper; **Resource Item 14: Prayer Reminder;** 8 ½" x 11" cardstock (white or colored)

Prepare: Copy the mission story and picture and the prayer reminders.

Introduce and tell the Mission story: *This week, our mission stories will highlight the ministry of BOUNCE. BOUNCE is a disaster recovery effort designed to help communities "bounce back" after a disaster. This ministry also helps people who need help taking care of their home.*

*Sometimes, homes need repair, a new paint job, or a new roof! Listen to the story of how **BOUNCE** was started. Show the picture after telling the story.*

Prayer: Please pray for churches that will send their students to help with disaster recovery or with people who need help with their home. Also, pray for the people who will receive help this year. Send home a prayer reminder (**Resource Item 14**) with each child to remind them to pray for the students who will participate in disaster recovery this year.

Journey On Down the Road

(Closing activity in small groups or activity at the end of the large group time)

Resources needed: Die-cut footprints (5 per child, 1 per day); 9" x 12" construction paper (any colors) or 8 ½" x 11" copy paper (any color); markers or pencils

Prepare: Die-cut the footprints from the construction paper.

Guide the activity: Each day, the children will write a question about the Bible story on one side of a footprint and something they can do to follow in Jesus' footsteps on the other side. Encourage the children to take the footprint home and ask the question about the story to a parent, friend, or sibling. Then, ask them to share what they wrote on the back of the footprint.

Session 2



Bible Story and Scripture:

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

Unit Bible Verse:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you
will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Daily Bible Verse:

Love your neighbor as yourself (Luke 10:27b).

Teaching Aim:

To help children know God wants us to show love and concern for all people

Prepare to Teach

Study the Bible

Bible Background: Luke 10:25-37

At this point in Jesus' ministry, there were many people who confronted him because they wanted to entrap him. On this occasion, a law expert asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 10:25). Jesus said, "What is written in the Law?" The man knew the laws of the Old Testament and quoted verses from Deuteronomy and Leviticus. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" (10:27a; Deuteronomy 6:5). He followed by saying, 'Love your neighbor as yourself' (Luke 10:27b; Leviticus 19:18).

Jesus agreed that he had answered correctly. He commissioned him to follow those guidelines and he would have eternal life. The lawyer's true intent (to test Jesus) in his question now became clear. Had his first question been genuine, the lawyer's next question should have been, *How can I do this? I am not able. I need help.* But instead, he tried to justify himself, defend himself against what Jesus was saying. He knew what was required of him. He was to love God and his neighbor. He was unwilling to apply it personally and admit his own lack of love for God and for those around him. So he tried to take the focus off himself by asking, "Who is my neighbor?" (10:29). To the lawyer and the Jews of Jesus' day, a neighbor would be a fellow Jew—one who strictly observed the law. Other people were thought to be enemies. This question has a basic flaw in that it assumes we can do something to inherit (earn) eternal life. Being a follower and disciple of Jesus brings us eternal life. It is a gift because of God's love. The good deeds we do are a result of following Jesus and not an attempt to gain eternal life.

Jesus answered this question with a parable. A parable is a brief story from which a moral or religious lesson may be learned. The parable begins, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers" (10:30). The road from Jerusalem to Jericho was very dangerous. One must travel over treacherous rocks and down steep hills. There were many places thieves could hide and wait for people to rob. One would have thought the Jews would have tried to make it safer because it was the road the temple workers used often. This man (a Jew), was attacked by robbers who beat him, took his possessions, and left him dying beside the road.

A priest and a Levite (both of whom were Jewish religious officials) were also on the road that day. The priests made the sacrifices, and the Levites took care of practical matters concerning the services. Jesus may have used them in this story because they were the ones most likely expected to help people in need and show mercy. And it was not too unusual that a priest and a Levite were the first ones to come across the injured man. Priests and Levites traveled most frequently on this road between Jerusalem and Jericho. One estimate placed 12,000 priests living in Jericho. What was unusual was that neither one stopped to help. They were both religious officials who knew the Scriptures and knew they were obligated to perform works of mercy. Yet, they did nothing except walk past the injured man. Their conduct was a breach of the Old Testament law (Deuteronomy 22:1; Exodus 23:4; Jeremiah 22:3-4).

The third man to come along was a Samaritan. He was perhaps a businessman. For him to help, no doubt, would cost him time and money and even some lost business opportunities. He did not stop to consider whether the injured man was a Jew or a neighbor, and neither did he check out a book of rules to see whether helping such a one would be proper. The Samaritan had compassion and love for the injured man and did what he could to help. He bandaged the man's wounds, placed him on his own donkey, and took him to an inn. The next day, he gave money to the innkeeper and asked him to care for the man until his return. He promised to reimburse the innkeeper for any extra expenses.

As Jesus finished the parable, he asked the lawyer, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The lawyer replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus' final comment was, "Go and do likewise" (10:36-37).

Jesus made a shocking statement to the expert of the law when he used the Samaritan as the hero of the story. Jews and Samaritans were enemies. The Jews hated the Samaritans because of the Samaritans' mixed Gentile blood and their worship. In the parable, a Jew was ignored by his fellow Jews, and it was the hated Samaritan who offered aid. The fact that the Samaritan was a better neighbor would have greatly offended the Jewish listeners.

Jesus had redefined the word *neighbor* to mean any person in need, even if the person was a member of another race or considered an enemy. Since every person has a need of some kind, so a neighbor can be every person we meet along life's way. Jesus wants us to be a neighbor and show mercy and love to all people he places in our pathway. We learn this love through our personal relationship with Jesus.

Guide the Session

As children enter the room, make sure they get their nametag and proceed to the small group welcome activity. Make sure new children are enrolled and given a nametag. Put new children in a small group. The small group teacher must be prepared and ready to begin when the first child arrives.

Small Group Activity

Our Journey Begins! (Welcome Activity)

Session 2: Add the Regions of Galilee, Samaria, and Judea

Resources needed: Resource Item 6: Map of Palestine (one per group); colored pencils; black, blue, red, or green markers; small bandage

Preparation: Place the materials on the table.

Guide the activity: Using the map of Palestine, show where the regions of Galilee, Samaria, and Judea are. Assign one or two children in your group to do each of the following jobs:

1. Trace the region of Galilee and label it with a red marker.
2. Trace the region of Samaria and label it with a blue marker.
3. Trace the region of Judea and label it with a green marker.
4. Locate the town of Jericho on the map. Write the name of Jericho on the map and attach a small bandage to represent the story of "The Good Samaritan."

As the children work together, say, *Our Bible story today is a parable. A parable is a story that Jesus told to help teach the people a Bible truth. The story takes place in Jericho. Jesus teaches the people what it means to be a "neighbor."*

Transition to Unit Bible Verse Activity or Large Group

You may follow the directions for teaching the unit Bible verse in your small groups after completing the welcome activity or the children can move to the large group and learn the verse as a large group. The number of children attending will be a guide to help you choose.

Unit Bible Verse Activity

Resources needed: Unit Bible verse phrases (from session 1); Bible

Prepare: Place a marker in the Bible at Acts 1:8. Place the unit Bible verse phrase cards (**Resource Item 7**) face down on the floor in random order.

Teach: Read the verse from the Bible. Briefly discuss the meaning of the verse. Select a child to turn over a phrase card and read it to the group. Lay the card back on the floor face up. Ask the child if that phrase is at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end. Guide the child to put the card in the approximate place it should go. Continue with different children until all the cards, one at a time, are turned face up and placed in the correct order. After all the cards have been placed on the floor, read the verse aloud in unison. Repeat the activity so all children can have turns. Mix the cards before placing them face down.

Large Group Bible Story

We Journey With Jesus!
(Tell the Bible Story)

Resources Needed: **Resource Item 15: Teaching Picture:** *The Good Samaritan*; Bible; 4" x 6" index cards (6); **Resource Item 16: Who Am I Cards;** 8 ½" x 11" cardstock (white)

Prepare: Place a marker in your Bible at Luke 10:25-37. Display the teaching picture. List the

following words on separate index cards: *a Samaritan; a law expert; an injured man; Jesus; a Levite; a priest*. Duplicate the *Who Am I* cards (**Resource Item 16**) on white cardstock, laminate, and cut apart.

Teach: Show the cards and read the characters one at a time. Tell the children that these are the people in the Bible story they will hear today. Place the cards on a picture rail or in a pocket chart after naming the character so they will be visible to the group during the story. Say, *In Session 1, we talked about being a friend. It is easy to be friends with people who are like us, but it is hard to be a friend to those who are different. In our Bible story today, Jesus teaches that we are to show love and concern for everyone, not just people whom we like or who are like us.*

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

Open your Bible to Luke 10:25-37 and tell the story from memory. Tell the children that today's story comes from the New Testament book of Luke, which is in the Gospel division.

A law expert who knew the Scriptures very well asked Jesus a question one day in order to test him. He wanted to see if Jesus really knew the answer that was in Scripture. He asked, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered, "What is written in the Law?" (10:25-26).

The law expert answered him by quoting Scripture. He answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (10:27).

Jesus told him that he had answered correctly. Jesus told the law expert that if he followed this command he would live. Then the law expert asked, "And, who is my neighbor?" (10:29). This again was a test question. The only people he considered to be his neighbors were other Jews just like himself.

To answer this question, Jesus told a parable. A parable is a story that teaches a lesson on how to live. Jesus told him that there was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho who was attacked by a band of robbers. The robbers stripped the man of his belongings, beat him, and then left him alone lying in the road and close to death. This road was very dangerous for travel for it was rocky and steep and gave robbers many places to hide.

A Jewish priest happened to be going down the same road. A priest is the one who offers sacrifices in the temple. When he saw the injured man, he passed by on the other side of the road. A little later a Levite came down the road. A Levite was responsible for the practical matters in the temple service. He saw the injured man, and like the priest, he too passed by on the other side of the road and offered no help.

Jesus then continued his parable by telling of a Samaritan who was also traveling along this same road. The Samaritan was a man who lived in Samaria. The injured man was a Jew. The Jews and the Samaritans had hated each other for hundreds of years. They had nothing to do with each

other. This did not stop the Samaritan from helping. He went straight to the injured man and put medicine on his wounds and then bandaged them. He gently lifted the injured man onto the back of his own donkey and took him to an inn and took care of him.

The next day, the Samaritan gave two silver coins to the innkeeper and asked him to take care of the injured man. The Samaritan promised on his return trip to pay the innkeeper for any extra expenses that he might have in taking care of the injured man.

After Jesus finished his story, he asked the law expert, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" (10:36). The law expert answered, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus then said to him, "Go and do likewise" (10:37).

Jesus' parable was used to teach a very important lesson to the law expert and to us. That lesson is that God expects us to have love and concern for everyone. If we truly love God, then we must show love and mercy to all, even to our enemies. Anyone who needs our help is our neighbor.

Closing: Use the *Who Am I* (**Resource Item 16**) cards to identify characters in the story. Read one of the statements (or allow different children to read). After hearing the information direct children to look at the cards with the characters named and identify the one making the statement. Ask them to also look at the teaching picture and identify the character if he is there. (Answers: Who Am I characters: 1: law expert; 2: Jesus; 3: injured man; 4: priest; 5: Levite; 6: a Samaritan) Close in prayer asking God to help us realize that everyone is to be treated with love and concern.

Remembering Our Journey (Review Bible Story)

Resources needed: Map Game board (from session 1); dry erase markers (from session 1); gift bag; direction cards (from session 1); **Resource Item 17: for Review Question Cards**; 8 ½" x 11" orange cardstock (1 sheet); review questions from Session 1

Prepare: Print the review questions (**Resource Item 17**) on orange cardstock. Laminate, cut apart, and place in the gift bag. Provide the game board, dry erase markers, question cards, and gift bag from Session 1. Place the extra cards (direction cards) in the bag, too. Remember, some questions may be removed so that younger children can be successful.

Teach: Divide the group into teams (they can remain the same or divided differently from Session 1). Play the game as directed in the first session. After using the questions from this session, add the questions from Session 1. Praise both teams for their effort.

Questions, Answers, and Number of Spaces to Move for Review Game:

1. Which New Testament book tells about "The Good Samaritan"? (Luke) **1**
2. Why did the law expert ask Jesus questions? (to test him) **2**

3. What is a parable? (a story that teaches a lesson on how to live) **3**
4. What happened to the man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho? (robbed, beaten, left for dead) **1**
5. Who was the *first* person who walked by the injured man and did not help? (priest) **2**
6. Who was the *second* person who walked by the injured man and did not help? (Levite) **2**
7. Who helped the injured man? (a Samaritan) **1**
8. What did the Samaritan do to help? (put medicine on wounds, bandaged wounds, put injured man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and cared for him, paid the innkeeper) **3**
9. Why was it unusual for a Samaritan to help a Jew? (they were bitter enemies and hated each other) **2**
10. From the parable, who did Jesus say was our neighbor? (anyone who needs help) **3**

Transition to Small Group Activities: Call the children by nametag color or call the teacher's name to dismiss the children to their small groups. After completing the small group activity in the room, they will rotate to different teachers and rooms for *Our Daily Bread (Snack)*, *Pick up Your Feet (Recreation)*, *Unroll the Scroll (Bible Skills)*, and *Other Mission Journeys (Missions)*.

Small Group Bible Activity

Sharing Our Journey **(Week-long Activity)**

Prepare: Mark your Bible at the selected story. Have the map of Palestine and the teaching picture, representing your story visible.

Teach: Briefly review the story. Children who have their own Bibles can follow along.

Guide the Bible activity: Today's activity is to compose the headline and tell the main story event for the newspaper. The headline gives the main idea of the story in words that will grab the reader's attention. For example, "Paralyzed Man Walks!" Work together to write the "catchy" headline and the newspaper article that summarizes the story. Encourage contributions from each child. Decide together which parts to tell and when they think a character should be quoted. For younger children, the teacher can write on the copy paper what the children are suggesting and then let them take turns writing on the poster board. Older children may each write individual stories and then combine them on the poster board "newspaper" taking turns writing the combined work. Use the rulers and yardstick to draw lines on the poster to indicate where their story should be placed. Refer to the newspaper samples for ideas.

Journey Through the Marketplace (Rotating Activities)

Our 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)

Suggested activities may be found on the VBS 2016 page at www.baptistwaypress.org.

Unroll the Scroll

(Daily Bible Verse Skills)

Resources needed: Bible scrolls (from session 1); extra copies for new children; pencils; clear tape; Bibles (3 or 4 per group)

Prepare: Make copies of the Bible verse puzzles if needed for new children.

Guide the activity: Say, *Let's find the Bible verses from Day 1.* Tell the children to find Acts 1:8. See if any children can say it without looking. Ask, *Is Acts in the Old or New Testament? What division of the Bible is it found?* Do the same with Proverbs 18:24b. Then, ask the children to find Luke 10:27. Ask if anyone knows if Luke is in the Old or New Testament. Then say, *Luke is one of the four gospels. The gospels tell us stories about Jesus. Does anyone know the names of the other three gospels?* (Matthew, Mark & John) Give each child a copy of the session two Bible verse puzzle and a pencil. Explain that in today's puzzle all the vowels have been left out of the words. They must fill in the vowels to discover today's Bible verse. Encourage them to use their Bibles to complete the puzzle. Offer help as needed.

Once a child has completed their daily Bible verse puzzle, show them how to add it to their scroll by taping it to the right of the session one daily Bible verse puzzle. Roll up the scroll when finished.

Other Mission Journeys

(Missions)

Resources needed: Resource Item 18: Mission Story and Picture; 8 ½" x 11" white copy paper

Prepare: Make a copy of the mission story and picture.

Introduce and tell the Mission story: *Today, our story highlights the BOUNCE ministry as they go to Waco, Texas. Listen as I tell you the story of Team Green Volley!* Show the picture after telling the story.

Prayer: Pray for Rylan and his grandmother. Continue to pray for Rylan's grandmother as she cares for Rylan.

Journey On Down the Road

(Closing activity in small groups or activity at the end of the large group time)

Resources needed: Die-cut footprints (prepared in session 1); 9" x 12" construction paper (any colors); markers or pencils

Prepare: If footprints for each day were not prepared before session 1, die-cut more footprint shapes for the each child.

Guide the activity: Instruct the children to write a question about the Bible story on one side of a footprint and something they can do to follow in Jesus' footsteps on the other side. Encourage the children to take the footprint home and ask the question about the story to a parent, friend, or sibling. Then, ask them to share what they wrote on the back of the footprint.

Session 3



Bible Story and Scripture:

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

Unit Bible Verse:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Daily Bible Verse:

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you
(John 15:12).

Teaching Aim:

To help children learn from Jesus how to love all people

Prepare to Teach

Study the Bible

Bible Background: Luke 19:1-10

As the time was nearing for Jesus to be taken up into heaven, he was on his last journey to Jerusalem. While on this journey, he shared lessons about God's kingdom through telling parables. He showed God's mercy to many individuals along the way.

Jericho was the last city he visited before reaching Jerusalem. Large crowds of people were in Jericho because they knew he was journeying through there and wanted to see and hear him.

Zacchaeus was a man who lived in Jericho. He had heard many interesting things about Jesus and wanted to see him as he passed through. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector for the Roman government and he was wealthy. Rulers of the Roman Empire collected taxes from the provinces under their power by hiring men like Zacchaeus. Those who promised to bring in the most money were given the job of chief tax collector. In turn, the chief tax collector hired others to work for them. First-century tax collectors were particularly unpopular, disliked, and even hated because they forced the citizens to pay their taxes plus an additional amount of money which they pocketed for themselves. The Jews in Jericho hated Zacchaeus and considered him to be one of the worst sinners.

Zacchaeus was curious and wanted to see who Jesus was. He went out to stand by the road hoping to see Jesus as he passed by. However, he was not a tall man and the crowd was so great he could not see over it. So, he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed up into a tree, which would give him a view above the crowd. This probably made a funny sight—a little rich man climbing up a tree.

As Jesus walked down the road, he came to the tree and stopped. He looked up into the tree and told Zacchaeus to come down immediately. Jesus told him that he must stay at his house today. Zacchaeus thought he was seeking Jesus but Jesus was really seeking him.

Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed Jesus to his house gladly. He was ecstatic, overjoyed, and exceedingly happy to have Jesus in his home. Very few people in Jericho would ever want to go to his home. But this well-known and popular man wanted to be in his house.

Zacchaeus was in need and Jesus knew it. Zacchaeus had no idea that Jesus would know he was in that tree. When Jesus spoke to him, he recognized that Jesus loved him. Jesus wanted to be with him, not to enjoy the benefits of his earthly wealth, but because he truly cared for him. Many people in the crowd expressed their feelings. They knew that Zacchaeus had become rich at their expense and considered him a sinner. They thought that a person like Jesus should know better than to associate with a person like Zacchaeus.

This little tax collector was so touched by Jesus' expression of love that he made a public commitment to the crowd gathered at his home. He said he would give half of all he owned to the poor and would restore four times the amount to any he had cheated.

Jesus recognized Zacchaeus' heart change (conversion) and called him a son of Abraham. This indicated that Zacchaeus had become a spiritual family member who had made a covenant with God. He had experienced salvation. This statement was a shock to those who heard it because Jesus was saying that anyone who believed would be saved.

All through his ministry Jesus had been criticized for spending time with sinners. His critics failed to recognize that all people are sinners. Luke 19:10 sums up the reason God came to earth in the form of a man--to save the lost.

Closing: Compare yourself to the characters in this story. Whom do you most resemble? Are you like Zacchaeus, a person who has received salvation and exhibits a changed life? Are you more like the taxpayers of Jericho, guilty of judging those around you in a harsh manner and ostracizing them from your social circle? Do you find yourself making fun of others because of their differences, the way the taxpayers treated Zacchaeus?

While the rest of the town shunned Zacchaeus, Jesus showed him love and kindness. If we are willing, we can learn from Jesus a valuable lesson—how to love all people. Have you ever been in a situation where someone made fun of you? How did it make you feel? Think about people in your church or your neighborhood who seem unlovable. Write down their names and pray for God to give you a kind heart toward the unlovable people in your life. Remember that they, too, need Jesus.

Guide the Session

As children enter the room, make sure they get their nametag and proceed to the small group welcome activity. Make sure new children are enrolled and given a nametag. Put new children in a small group. The small group teacher must be prepared and ready to begin when the first child arrives.

Small Group Activity

Our Journey Begins! (Welcome Activity)

Session 3: Add the Jordan River, the city of Jericho, and mountains to the map

Resources needed: Resource Item 6: Map of Palestine; Bible; blue and dark brown felt tip marker; 9" x 12" construction paper (gray or dark brown); cellophane paper (light or dark blue); glue or glue sticks; tree sticker (1) or die-cut tree shape

Prepare: Place the materials on a table.

Guide the activity: Using the map of Palestine, show where the Jordan River runs and where the

mountains are located (mainly to the west of the Jordan River). Assign one or two children in your group to do each of the following jobs:

1. Draw mountains on the map or cut gray or dark brown triangles to glue on the map.
2. Trace the Jordan River with a blue marker then label it.
3. Label the town of Jericho and place a tree sticker or a small die-cut tree next to Jericho, representing the story of *Zacchaeus*.

Transition to Unit Bible Verse Activity or Large Group

You may follow the directions for teaching the unit Bible verse in your small groups after completing the welcome activity or the children can move to the large group and learn the verse as a large group. The number of children attending will be a guide to help you choose.

Unit Bible Verse Activity

Resources needed: Bible; unit Bible verse phrases (from session 1); a ball (beach ball, basketball, or soccer ball); tape, tacks, or staples

Prepare: Attach the unit Bible verse phrase cards in the correct order to a wall where they will be visible to the group. Provide a ball. Place a marker in the Bible at Acts 1:8.

Teach: Read the verse from the Bible. Allow children to tell what it means. Instruct children to stand in a circle. Gently toss the ball to one child. The child says the first phrase of the verse and then tosses the ball to another child who says the second phrase. Continue until all phrases and the reference have been stated. Then begin again and encourage them to toss and recite a little faster and if possible, without looking at the phrases on the wall. This process can be repeated as desired improving the speed each time. If using a soccer ball, caution children to gently tap it to the next person so it rolls. State that no kicking is allowed. If you have more than one kind of ball, the game could be played several times by tossing and other times by tapping with the foot.

Large Group Bible Story

We Journey With Jesus!
(Tell the Bible Story)

Resources needed: Bible; **Resource Item 19: Teaching Picture: *Zacchaeus***; **Resource Item 20: *Zacchaeus' Monologue***; adult biblical costume

Prepare: Enlist an adult (one who is not tall) to portray Zacchaeus and dress in biblical costume. Make a copy of the monologue (**Resource Item 20**). Ask him to memorize the monologue. Mark your Bible to Luke 19:1-10. Display the teaching picture. Instruct the adult "Zacchaeus" to wait out of sight until called to the group.

Teach: Invite children to tell about a time when they saw someone that was very important. After several have responded, discuss some things they may have done to be sure they could see this person (getting tickets close to where the person would be, leaving home early to get a close location like at a parade, etc.).

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

Open your Bible to Luke 19:1-10. Tell the children that this story is found in the New Testament division of the Gospels and is in the book of Luke. It is about a man named Zacchaeus who wanted to see a person who was very important. He wanted to see Jesus. Say, *I could tell you this story, but there is a guest here today who can tell you about it.* (Have another teacher escort "Zacchaeus" into the room and introduce him to the children.)

Hello! My name is Zacchaeus. I live in the town of Jericho. As you can see, I'm a rather short man. People have always made fun of me because I am so short. But you know what? I don't think anyone really cared that I am short in stature. I think people in Jericho just picked on me because I, well, I was really unpopular. They were just looking for some way to make fun of me. Let me tell you why no one liked me.

I'm a tax collector—a tax collector for the Roman government. I take money from people who live in Jericho and give it to the Romans so they can run their government. Actually, I always took more money from the people than they really owed. Yes, I was a dishonest tax collector. The people in Jericho knew I was demanding more money from them than they owed. But there was not anything they could do about it, and so they hated me and talked about me. I had zero friends!

One day, I found out that Jesus was coming to Jericho. He was passing through Jericho on his way to Jerusalem. I had heard much talk about this man named Jesus. I heard that Jesus loves everyone, no matter how unlovable you are. I knew I had to see this person named Jesus.

On the day Jesus arrived, I rushed to town so I could see him. There was such a huge crowd in the streets of Jericho that I could not see anything that was happening. I decided to climb a sycamore-fig tree. I scrambled up into the branches and waited for Jesus to walk by. With all the people around, I knew I would not be able to actually meet him. I just wanted to catch a glimpse of him. That would be enough to satisfy my curiosity!

Suddenly—there he was—Jesus himself. He stopped walking and looked right up at me in that tree. He said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I need to stay at your house today." At first I was shocked. Jesus was actually talking to me. How did he know my name? I was so excited that Jesus wanted to go to my home.

The townspeople muttered that Jesus was going to the house of a "sinner." But that didn't stop Jesus. He spent time with me in spite of the reactions of the townspeople.

Meeting Jesus changed my life. Do you know what I am doing now? I am still a tax collector for the government, but I am an honest person. I only take what people owe. I know you are wondering how I feel about all the extra money I took from the people of Jericho. I returned all of it and more—four times the amount to be exact! I have also given half of everything I own to the poor in my city.

Jesus knew my heart had changed and he called me a son of Abraham. This meant that I was part of God's family and my sins were forgiven. He said he came to earth to seek and save those who were lost. Well, I was certainly lost and he saved me.

Jesus taught me how important it was for me to love other people. I learned that I can show love to other people by treating them with respect and being honest.

I must be on my way now. Thank you for having me here today and listening to my story.

(Children say good-bye to Zacchaeus and thank him for coming.)

Closing: Refer to the teaching picture and identify the characters portrayed. Invite discussion about the story as you look at the picture. Close in prayer thanking God for the change he can make in people's lives.

Remembering Our Journey **(Review Bible Story)**

Resources needed: Game board (from session 1); dry erase markers (from session 1); gift bag;
Resource Item 21: Review Question Cards (Session 3); 8 ½" x 11" yellow cardstock; review questions from sessions 1 and 2

Prepare: Print the review questions (**Resource Item 21**) for session 3 on yellow cardstock. Laminate, cut apart, and place in the gift bag. Provide the game board, dry erase markers, direction cards and questions from the previous sessions.

Teach: Divide the group into teams, which are grouped differently than in previous sessions. Play the game as directed in the first session. After using the questions from session 3, add the questions from sessions 1 and 2 to the bag. Congratulate both teams for their effort.

Questions, Answers, and Number of Spaces to Move for Review Game:

1. Where did Zacchaeus live? (Jericho) **1**
2. What was Zacchaeus' job? (tax collector) **1**
3. Why didn't Zacchaeus have any friends? (dishonest—took more money than owed) **2**
4. When Jesus passed through Jericho, where was he headed? (Jerusalem) **3**
5. Why did Zacchaeus climb the sycamore tree? (short, wanted to see Jesus) **1**
6. How did Jesus show love to Zacchaeus? (went to his house and spent time with him) **2**

7. What did the townspeople think about Jesus showing kindness to Zacchaeus? (muttered that Jesus was going to a "sinner's" house) **3**
8. In what ways did Zacchaeus' life change after he met Jesus? (paid back four times amount of what he took dishonestly, gave half of what he had to the poor) **3**
9. How do we know that Jesus changed Zacchaeus' life? (repented—was sorry he had cheated others, began to love others as Jesus did – giving to the poor) **2**
10. Why did Jesus say he came to earth? (seek and save the lost) **3**

Transition to Small Group Activities: Call the children by nametag color or call the teacher's name to dismiss the children to their small groups. After completing the small group activity in the room, they will rotate to different teachers and rooms for *Our Daily Bread (Snack)*, *Pick up Your Feet (Recreation)*, *Unroll the Scroll (Bible Skills)*, and *Other Mission Journeys (Missions)*.

Small Group Bible Activity

Sharing Our Journey **(Week-long Activity)**

Session 3

Prepare: Mark your Bible at the selected story. Have the map of Palestine and the teaching picture representing your story visible. Provide the costumes and digital camera.

Teach: Review the story by directing the children to tell it in their own words to remind them of the events and to inform any new children who may have joined your group. Encourage those with Bibles to open and use them.

Guide the Bible activity: Today's activity is to provide a digital picture for the newspaper, which will help readers understand the story more clearly. Use the costumes to help children look like the biblical characters. Determine with the children the parts of the story they want to show. Pose those parts and take pictures. Some stories may need only one picture in order to allow the whole group to be in it (four friends) and others may need two pictures (Jesus with two men on road to Emmaus). For this story, one picture could show the three characters and a second could show the two men telling the disciples and women back in Jerusalem. The pictures need to be printed today in order to attach them to the newspaper tomorrow.

Option: If no costumes or camera will be available, the picture(s) can be drawn and colored by the children on copy paper and then attached to the newspaper (poster board).

Journey Through the Marketplace (Rotating Activities)

Our 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)

Suggested activities may be found on the VBS 2016 page at www.baptistwaypress.org.

Unroll the Scroll

(Daily Bible Verse Skills)

Resources needed: Bible scrolls (from session 2); extra copies for new children; pencils; clear tape

Prepare: Make copies of the Bible verse puzzles if needed for new children.

Guide the activity: Give each child a copy of the session three Bible verse puzzle and a pencil. Explain that in today's puzzle complete words are left out of the verse. To complete the verse, they must fill in the missing words. Offer help as needed. Once a child has completed their daily Bible verse puzzle, encourage them to add it to their scroll by taping it to the right of the Session two daily Bible verse puzzle. Roll up the scroll when finished.

Other Mission Journeys

(Missions)

Resources needed: **Resource Item 22: Mission Story and Picture; Resource Item 23: Care Cards;** 8 ½" x 11" copy paper (various colors); pencils (regular or colored) or fine-tipped markers (1 per child)

Prepare: Make a copy of the mission story and picture (**Resource Item 22**). On 8 ½" x 11" white copy paper, make copies of the care cards (**Resource Item 23**). Before VBS, find names of people in your church or community that need encouragement.

Introduce and tell the Mission story: *Today our mission story highlights the story of a hearing impaired family and how the BOUNCE team ministered to them. Listen to our story today.* Guide the children in their writing notes on the care cards. Don't include specific names of individuals who will receive the notes. The notes could be encouragement notes to staff members.

Guide Learning: Share the picture of Ms. Adams and her son, Craig (**Resource Item 22**). Give the care cards to the children.

Prayer: Pray for other people will feel called to learn sign language to communicate with people who are hearing impaired.

Journey On Down the Road

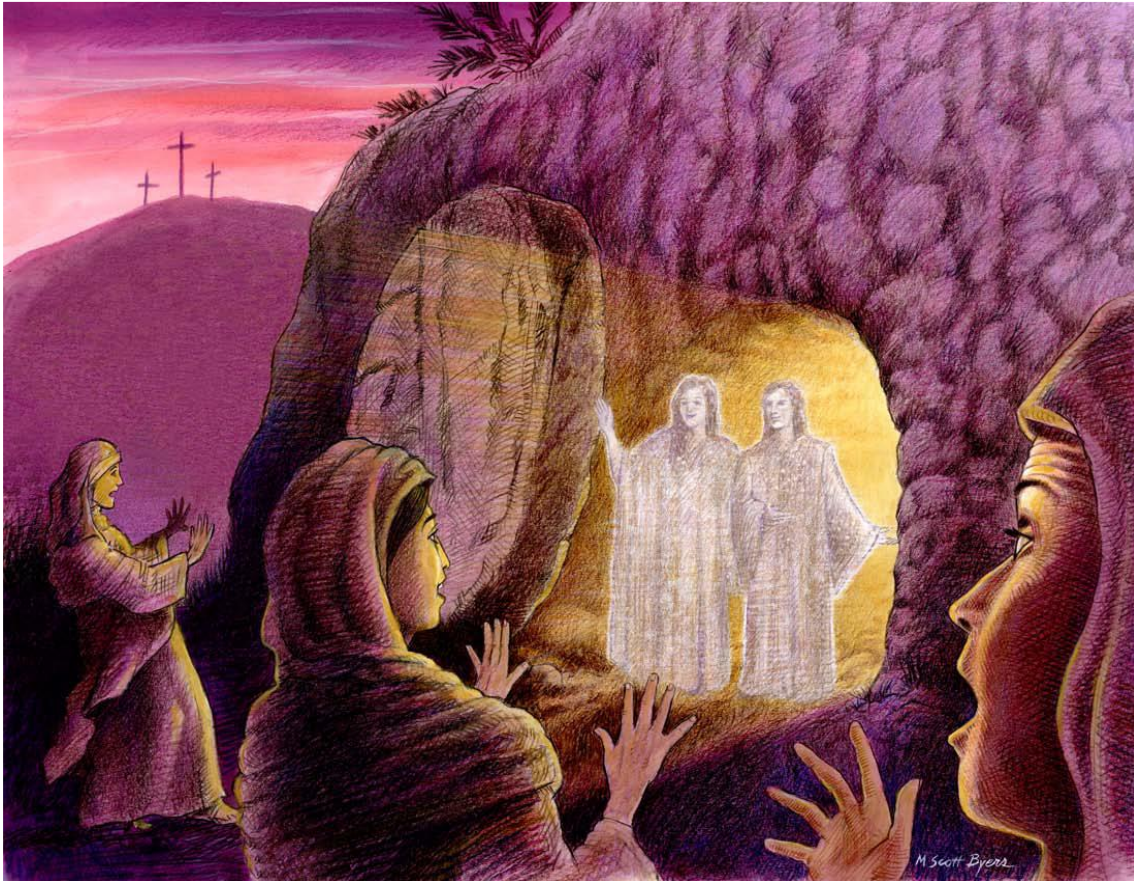
(Closing activity in small groups or activity at the end of the large group time)

Resources needed: Die-cut footprints (prepared in session 1); 9" x 12" construction paper (any colors); markers or pencils

Prepare: If footprints for each day were not prepared before session 1, die-cut more footprint shapes for the each child.

Guide the activity: Instruct the children to write a question about the Bible story on one side of a footprint and something they can do to follow in Jesus' footsteps on the other side. Encourage the children to take the footprint home and ask the question about the story to a parent, friend, or sibling. Then, ask them to share what they wrote on the back of the footprint.

Session 4



Bible Story and Scripture:

Jesus Loves Us: *The Resurrection*

(Matthew 28:1-12; Mark 16:1-11; John 20:1-18; Luke 24:1-12)

Unit Bible Verse:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Daily Bible Verse:

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (John 20:31a).

Teaching Aim:

To help children know that Jesus is the risen Savior

Prepare to Teach

Study the Bible

Bible Background: (Matthew 28:1-12; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18)

Friday had been a time of indescribable loss and confusion for the disciples and followers of Jesus. Only a few women and one apostle had been with Jesus at his crucifixion. After three years of living with Jesus and seeing his ministry of miracles, they were stunned at the outcome and afraid of what could lie ahead. Any hopes they clung to were wiped out. He was dead and buried in a tomb hollowed out of rock. A massive stone sealed Jesus in. The chief priest and the Pharisees had gone to Pilate to secure guards for the tomb. Nobody was going anywhere. It was over.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and a few other women made their way to the tomb with spices to mourn and tend to the body. On the day Jesus died, Joseph from Arimathea asked for Jesus' body, took it from the cross, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in his own tomb. There was no time to properly prepare the body for burial because the Sabbath was about to begin. They rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment. On Sunday as they walked to the tomb, they were discussing how they would roll the stone away from the tomb. They knew it normally took two or three men to roll the stone over the entrance to the tomb.

God had the answer to that as a violent earthquake hit the area. An angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothes were white like snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and were like dead men. They had just fainted away. The women were also frightened when they saw the angel and bowed their heads to the ground.

The angel told the women not to be afraid. He told them he knew they were looking for Jesus who had been crucified. But, he told them that Jesus was not here. Jesus had risen from the dead just as he had said he would. He invited them to look at the place where Jesus had been. The grave clothes were undisturbed, as though Jesus' body had simply passed through them (John 20:6-7). The angel told the women to go and tell the disciples that Jesus was alive and that he would see them in Galilee.

The women ran to tell the eleven disciples this amazing story! Before they reached their destination, Jesus himself intercepted them on the way. "Greetings!" he said (Matthew 28:9). The women clasped his feet and worshiped him. Jesus told them not to be afraid but to tell his brothers to go to Galilee. He would meet them there. Galilee was the place where Jesus had called them to follow him. Many theologians believe that when Jesus referred to his disciples as brothers, he was telling them that he had forgiven them for deserting him and that they had a new relationship with him.

John 20 tells of a poignant encounter between Jesus and Mary Magdalene, whom Jesus delivered from seven demons. Her devotion to him was evident in her deep sorrow and grief. She may have been the first to discover the empty tomb. She then dashed away to tell the disciples before

seeing the angel. At some point, Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb. As she stood outside weeping, she heard a voice ask why she was crying. Thinking it was the gardener, she replied that someone had taken her Lord away, and she did not know where he was. Jesus asked who she was looking for, and she answered with another question, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him" (John 20:15). Jesus then called her by name, saying, "Mary." Immediately she recognized his voice, turned toward him, and cried out, "Teacher!" After Jesus spoke with her, she ran to the disciples to report, "I have seen the Lord!" (20:18).

When the women left the tomb and announced that Jesus was alive again, the disciples did not believe them. They thought their words were "like nonsense" (Luke 24:11). But nonsense or not, Peter and "the other disciple" ran to the tomb (John 20:3-4). With every step, their confidence must have grown that Jesus would not be there. The news the women brought began to renew their trust in the Jesus they knew and served.

Guide the Session

As children enter the room, make sure they get their nametag and proceed to the small group welcome activity. Make sure new children are enrolled and given a nametag. Put new children in a small group. The small group teacher must be prepared and ready to begin when the first child arrives.

Small Group Activity

Our Journey Begins! (Welcome Activity)

Session 4: Add the Towns Where Jesus Traveled

Materials needed: **Resource Item 6: Map of Palestine**; colored dot stickers (8); small picture of Jesus (standing); glue or glue sticks; dark brown felt tip marker

Prepare: Locate a small picture of Jesus (standing). Place the other materials on the table.

Guide the activity: Review the *Journey with Jesus* map. Using the map of Palestine, locate the cities of Bethlehem, Nazareth, Cana, Jericho, Jerusalem, Bethany, Arimathea, and Emmaus.

Assign one or two children in your group to do each of the following jobs:

1. Locate Bethlehem (Judea) and place a dot sticker on the map. Write *Bethlehem* beside the dot sticker. Say, *This is where Jesus was born.*
2. Locate Nazareth (Galilee) and place a dot sticker on the map. Write *Nazareth* beside the dot sticker. Say, *This is where Jesus lived with Mary and Joseph.*
3. Locate Cana (Galilee) and place a dot sticker on the map. Write *Cana* beside the dot

- sticker. Say, *This is where Jesus performed the first miracle at a wedding.*
4. Locate Jericho (Samaria) and place a dot sticker on the map. Write *Jericho* beside the dot sticker. Say, *This is where Jesus met Zacchaeus.*
 5. Locate Jerusalem (Samaria) and place a dot sticker on the map. Write *Jerusalem* beside the dot sticker. Say, *This is where Jesus was crucified.*
 6. Locate Arimathea (Judea) and place a dot sticker on the map. Write *Arimathea* beside the dot sticker. Say, *This is where Jesus was buried.*
 7. Locate Emmaus (Judea) and place a dot sticker on the map. Write *Emmaus* beside the dot sticker. Say, *This is where Jesus met his disciples after his resurrection.*
 8. Locate Bethany (Judea) and place a dot sticker on the map. Write *Bethany* beside the dot sticker. Say, *This is where Jesus ascended into heaven!*
 9. Add the Jesus picture near the city of Jerusalem to represent today's story of ***The Resurrection.***

Transition to Unit Bible Verse Activity or Large Group

You may follow the directions for teaching the unit Bible verse in your small groups after completing the welcome activity or the children can move to the large group and learn the verse as a large group. The number of children attending will be a guide to help you choose.

Unit Bible Verse Activity

Resources needed: Bible; unit Bible verse phrase cards (from session 1)

Prepare: Keep the phrase cards attached to the wall as they were in Session 3. Place a marker in the Bible at Acts 1:8.

Teach: Read the verse from the Bible and briefly remind children of its meaning. Divide children into groups of two to three. Assign each group a different motion such as the following: hop on your right foot; hop on your left foot; hop on both feet at the same time; jumping jacks; hands on waist and twist left and right; bend from waist with knees straight and touch fingers to floor; etc. For children unable to do active motions, use clapping, snapping, nodding head, etc.

Demonstrate each action and then allow each group to practice the movement they were assigned. Provide time for each group to practice reciting the verse while doing the action. Finally, let each group perform its action while reciting the verse as the other groups watch. Encourage them to say the verse without looking at the phrase cards.

Large Group Bible Story

We Journey with Jesus! **(Bible Story)**

Resources needed: Bible; **Resource Item 24: Teaching Picture:** *The Resurrection*

Prepare: Place markers in your Bible at Matthew 28:1-12, Mark 16:1-11, Luke 24:1-12, and John 20:1-18. Display the teaching picture.

Teach: Open your Bible to each marked passage and state the name of the book and the reference. Say, *These are four books in the Bible called the Gospels. They are all in the part of the Bible known as the New Testament. The Gospels tell us about Jesus. All four books tell about when Jesus came back to life after being put to death on the cross. This event is known as The Resurrection.* Keep your Bible opened to the passage in Luke as the story is told.

Jesus Loves Us: *The Resurrection* **(Matthew 28:1-12; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18)**

Early Sunday morning, some of the women who were devoted to Jesus came to the tomb, bringing spices to anoint Jesus' body and finish the burial preparations. There was no time to do this on the day Jesus died because the Sabbath had begun as he was placed in the tomb. The women were obedient to the commandment that required rest on the Sabbath. So, while it was still dark this Sunday morning, they were walking to the tomb. As they walked, they talked about how they would remove the huge stone that had been placed at the opening.

God took care of this problem. There was a violent earthquake as an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled away the massive stone and then sat down on it. He was bright like lightning and his clothes were white as snow. The guards at the tomb fainted and the women bowed their heads to the ground.

The angel told them not to be afraid. He told them that he knew they were looking for Jesus, who was crucified, and that Jesus was not there. He had risen, just as he said. The angel invited them to look into the tomb to see the place where Jesus lay. It was empty!

Then the angel told the women to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen and would meet them in Galilee. This was the place where Jesus had asked them to follow him. It was their home.

The women ran to tell the disciples all about what they had seen. As they were leaving, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" He told them to go and tell his brothers (disciples) to go to Galilee where they would see him. The women worshiped Jesus and then continued on to tell the disciples. When they gave their report, the disciples did not believe them. They thought the women were talking nonsense. But Peter and John took off running to the tomb to investigate themselves. They entered the tomb and saw the grave clothes lying there. But Jesus was gone! John and Peter began to remember what Jesus had told them and began to believe.

Sometime later, Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb, searching for Jesus' body. She was crying when she heard a voice ask why she was crying. She thought it was the gardener and asked him to take her to Jesus' body if he was the one who had taken it. Then Jesus called her by name, "Mary." Instantly, she recognized the voice. She turned to him and cried out, "Teacher!" She ran to tell the disciples that she had seen the Lord!

Closing: Review the story by discussing the teaching picture. Pray thanking God for loving us so much that he sent Jesus to show us this great love.

Remembering Our Journey **(Review Bible Story)**

Resources needed: Game board (from session 1); sandal markers (from session 1); gift bag;
Resource Item 25: Review Question Cards (Session 4); 8 ½" x 11" green cardstock; review questions from previous sessions

Prepare: Print the review questions (**Resource Item 25**) for session 4 on green cardstock. Laminate, cut apart, and place in the gift bag. Place the direction cards in the bag, also. Provide the game board, sandal markers, bag, and questions from the previous sessions.

Teach: Divide the large group into teams. Play the game as directed in the first session. After using the questions from Session 4, add the questions from Sessions 1, 2, and 3. Thank both teams for their effort.

Questions, Answers, and Number of Spaces to Move for Review Game:

1. In what book of the New Testament do we read about Jesus' resurrection? (Gospels) **2**
2. Why were the women going to Jesus' tomb on Sunday morning? (to care for his body for burial) **1**
3. How was the massive stone rolled from the tomb? (earthquake/angel) **1**
4. What did the angel look like? (lightning with clothes as white as snow) **2**
5. Why wasn't Jesus in the tomb? (He had risen from the dead) **3**
6. Where did the women go after seeing the angel? (to tell the disciples) **2**
7. Who did the women see as they were leaving the tomb? (Jesus) **3**
8. What message did Jesus give the women for his disciples? (He had risen and they could see him in Galilee) **3**
9. Why didn't the disciples believe the women? (thought they were talking nonsense) **2**
10. Which two disciples ran to the tomb? (Peter and John) **3**

Transition to Small Group Activities: Call the children by nametag color or call the teacher's name to dismiss the children to their small groups. After completing the small group activity in the room, they will rotate to different teachers and rooms for ***Our Daily Bread (Snack), Pick up Your Feet (Recreation) Unroll the Scroll (Bible Skills), and Other Mission Journeys (Missions).***

Small Group Bible Activity

Sharing Our Journey (Week-long Activity)

Prepare: Place a marker in your Bible at the selected story. Have the map of Palestine (**Resource Item 6**) and the teaching picture representing your story visible. Locate maps and advertisements in sample newspapers. (Wisely choose the advertisements that you show.)

Teach: Review the story briefly by asking questions about the characters and events. New children will be able to participate in the work.

Guide the Bible activity: Show the digital or drawn picture(s) from Session 3 and allow children to determine where they should be attached to the newspaper. Today's activity is two-fold: draw a map showing the location of the Bible story; and create an advertisement related to the story. Review the sample newspapers used previously. Look at a map that accompanies one of the articles to show children how it helps understand the location of the story. Show some advertisements. Point out that they use few words and/or short phrases and may have a picture of the product. Determine a product to advertise for your specific story. (For example: New Mats (paralyzed man); Better Bandages (Good Samaritan); Shoes that Grip, Not Slip (Zacchaeus); and Travel Kits (men walking back and forth from Jerusalem to Emmaus). These can be very creative and fun and should aid in learning more about the story. Instruct the group to determine where the map and advertisement should be placed on the newspaper. All activities will be completed at the end of this session.

Journey Through the Marketplace (Rotating Activities)

Our 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)

Suggested activities may be found on the VBS 2016 page at www.baptistwaypress.org.

Unroll the Scroll (Daily Bible Verse Skills)

Resources needed: Bible scrolls (from session 3); extra copies for new children; pencils; clear

tape

Prepare: Make copies of the Bible verse puzzles if needed for new children.

Guide the activity: Give each child a copy of the Session 4 Bible verse puzzle and a pencil. Explain that in today's puzzle, the Bible verse is all mixed up! To complete the verse, students must unscramble the words and write them in the correct order. Offer help as needed. Once a child has completed their daily Bible verse puzzle, encourage them to add it to their scroll by taping it to the right of the Session 3 daily Bible verse puzzle. Roll up the scroll when finished.

Other Mission Journeys (Missions)

Resources needed: **Resource Item 26: Mission Story and Picture;** 8 ½" x 11" white copy paper

Prepare: Make a copy of the mission story and picture (**Resource Item 26**).

Introduce and tell the Mission story: *Today our story highlights the story of Richard from Dove Springs, Texas. The BOUNCERS responded to a need and was a huge blessing to Richard.* Show the picture after telling the story.

Prayer: Continue to pray for Richard and others who were impacted by this terrible flood.

Journey On Down the Road (Closing activity in small groups or activity at the end of the large group time)

Resources needed: Die-cut footprints (prepared in session 1); 9" x 12" construction paper (any colors); markers or pencils

Prepare: If footprints for each day were not prepared before session 1, die-cut more footprint shapes for the each child.

Guide the activity: Instruct the children to write a question about the Bible story on one side of a footprint and something they can do to follow in Jesus' footsteps on the other side. Encourage the children to take the footprint home and ask the question about the story to a parent, friend, or sibling. Then, ask them to share what they wrote on the back of the footprint.

Session 5



Bible Story and Scripture:

Jesus Teaches Us to Witness: *Go and Tell Others*
(Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:13-53; Acts 1:1-11)

Unit Bible Verse:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Daily Bible Verse:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Teaching Aim:

To help children learn that Jesus returned to heaven and commissioned his disciples to continue his work

Prepare to Teach

Study the Bible

Bible Background: (Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:13-53; Acts 1:1-11)

Jesus' resurrection from his borrowed tomb brought the disciples from despair to euphoria. They were likely stunned by the extraordinary events being witnessed in Jerusalem. Their "old" world no longer made sense. Everything the disciples thought they understood about their faith and life was suddenly open for questioning. They found that they could trust none of their old assumptions. But they could trust Jesus. He was there with them as they began to put their world back together again.

It is important to understand that the disciples never returned to their old relationship and lifestyle with Jesus. Before Jesus' death on the cross, the disciples were with Jesus twenty-four hours a day. They witnessed the reality of both his divinity and humanity. They heard his wisdom, saw his miracles, and felt his authority. They also saw that he required food and sleep and that he tired and felt the burden of his mission. He was their leader but also their companion and friend.

The disciples experienced the resurrected Jesus in a different way. He would "appear" to the disciples, and then he would just not be there. His body seemed to be in an altered state. He was much less bound by natural laws; he could move from place to place without the effort and time we are so familiar with. Jesus appeared to individuals and groups of people at various times. At first, his appearances seemed to have an effect of restoration and hope. They included a re-telling of God's plan as it had been accomplished through Jesus' death and resurrection. Later appearances seemed to be guiding his followers further along the road toward greater spiritual understanding.

On the evening of the day of his resurrection, he joined two preoccupied travelers as they journeyed the seven miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus. As he began walking with them, he asked what they were discussing. They asked him if he was only a visitor to Jerusalem and didn't know about the things that just happened. At this point they did not recognize Jesus. He asked them, "What things?" (Luke 24:19) So they told him all about Jesus being crucified and the women who went to the tomb and saw angels and were told that Jesus was alive. Then as they continued walking, Jesus explained how the law and prophets foretold his death and resurrection. It wasn't until they were at the table eating when Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and shared it with them that they recognized that their companion was Jesus. At that moment, he disappeared from their sight. Then the two men left the table, walked the seven miles back to Jerusalem, and told the gathered disciples that the Lord had risen and appeared to them. The resurrection was true.

The disciples clearly were in the midst of enormous spiritual growth and transformation. No longer would they be confused followers. In a few weeks they were to become spiritual leaders helping to evangelize and disciple thousands of new Christians. Jesus' last appearance included a focus on a great task he was giving his followers and on the power they would be given to accomplish that task.

After the resurrection, the eleven disciples went to the mountain in Galilee as they had been instructed. Perhaps this group included a crowd of Jesus' followers, possibly referring to the group of 500 mentioned in 1 Corinthians 15:6. When they saw Jesus, they worshiped him. Still, some people doubted. Jesus had fulfilled his mission of redemption on the cross. The disciples' mission was about to begin (Matthew 28:16-17).

Jesus told them that all authority in heaven and earth had been given to him. With that authority, he sent them out. Jesus promised them power and assured them of his constant presence. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (28:19-20).

About a week later, Jesus led his followers back to the area of Bethany. They asked Jesus whether he was going to restore the kingdom to Israel. He answered that it was not for them to know the times the Father had set by his own authority. Jesus promised them power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. He also told them that they would be his witnesses throughout the world (Acts 1:8). Jesus then raised his hands and blessed them. As Jesus spoke, he was taken up before their eyes and disappeared in the clouds. As they were staring intently into the sky, two men dressed in white stood beside them and asked, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven" (1:11).

The Holy Spirit was promised so that the Great Commission could be accomplished. And it was! And it is being! And it will be!

Guide the Session

As children enter the room, make sure they get their nametag and proceed to the small group welcome activity. Make sure new children are enrolled and given a nametag. Put new children in a small group. The small group teacher must be prepared and ready to begin when the first child arrives.

Small Group Activity

Our Journey Begins! (Welcome Activity)

Session 5: Add the Roads Where Jesus Traveled

Resources needed: Resource Item 6: Map of Palestine; washable fine-tipped markers (red, green, blue, purple, orange and yellow); small footprint stickers (8-10)

Prepare: Place all the materials on the table.

Guide the activity: Review the *Journey with Jesus* map. Using the map in the Bible, locate the major roadways used during Jesus' lifetime. Assign one or two children in your group to do each of the following jobs:

1. With a pencil, draw a line from Bethlehem to Nazareth. Then, trace over it with a red marker.
2. With a pencil, draw a line from Nazareth to Cana. Then, trace over it with a green marker.
3. With a pencil, draw a line from Cana to Jericho. Then, trace over it with a blue marker.
4. With a pencil, draw a line from Jericho to Jerusalem. Then, trace over it with a purple marker.
5. With a pencil, draw a line from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Then, trace over it with an orange marker.
6. With a pencil, draw a line from Emmaus to Bethany. Then, trace over it with a yellow marker.
7. Add footprint stickers between Jerusalem and Emmaus to represent today's Bible story.

Talk about each of these journeys with the children and describe or ask the children what happened on those journeys. This is a great review activity for the week.

Transition to Unit Bible Verse Activity or Large Group

You may follow the directions for teaching the unit Bible verse in your small groups after completing the welcome activity or the children can move to the large group and learn the verse as a large group. The number of children attending will be a guide to help you choose.

Unit Bible Verse Activity

Resources needed: Bible

Prepare: Place a marker in the Bible at Acts 1:8. Remove all copies of the verse from sight.

Teach: Read the verse from the Bible and invite the children to say it with you as you read. Direct the children to stand and form a circle and then sit down. Designate a child to be the starter. He will say only the first word of the verse. The person to his right will say the second word. Continue around the circle until the entire verse and reference have been said. Select a different child to be the starter and repeat the activity, but moving to the left this time. If a child is unable to say his word, allow others in the group to help. Use the Bible as needed. Provide time for any child to say the entire verse individually.

Praise children for their effort and remind them that knowing this verse is great, but we must also do what it says. Encourage them to be aware of times and places they can tell someone about Jesus.

Large Group Bible Story

We Journey With Jesus! **(Tell the Bible Story)**

Resources needed: Bible; **Resource Item 27: Teaching Picture: *Go and Tell Others***

Prepare: Place markers in your Bible at Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:13-53, and Acts 1:1-11. Display the teaching picture (**Resource Item 27**).

Teach: Say, *When someone is leaving to go on a trip or move to a new place, that person may have many important things to tell those left behind. For example: when and how much to water the plants, what the pets eat and when to feed them, and how they can be reached in an emergency. Jesus knew he was leaving to go back into heaven and he had many things he wanted to tell his followers before he left.*

Open the Bible to the three references in your Bible. Tell the children that today's story is found in the New Testament in two divisions of the Bible. Matthew and Luke are in the Gospel division and Acts is in the History Division.

Jesus Teaches Us to Witness: *Go and Tell Others* **(Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:13-53, Acts 1:1-11)**

The women left the open tomb feeling great joy at having seen Jesus. He had given them an assignment. They were to tell the disciples of Jesus' resurrection and to meet him in Galilee.

During the evening on the day he arose, he joined two men walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Cleopas and his friend did not recognize Jesus. They had been in Jerusalem and had witnessed the chief priests and other religious Jewish leaders hand Jesus over to be crucified. They knew all about his death on the cross and being placed in the borrowed tomb. They told this stranger with them that they had hoped that this Jesus would be the one to redeem Israel. They had heard Jesus preach before and knew he said that he would rise on the third day. They said that this was the third day and some of the women they knew had found the tomb empty and angels there saying that Jesus was alive. They said some of their companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women said, empty.

Then Jesus began to explain to them all that the Scriptures had told about him from Moses through all the Prophets. He was helping them to understand that he (Jesus) was the redeemer as foretold in Scripture. They invited him to stay with them when they reached Emmaus. When Jesus took the bread, prayed, and shared it with them, they recognized who he was. He suddenly disappeared from their sight. They quickly left the table and even though it was night and a seven-mile walk, they returned to Jerusalem, went straight to the disciples, and told what had happened. They were witnesses to the fact that Jesus was who he said he was and that he had truly risen from the dead.

The disciples followed Jesus' order that the women had shared. They journeyed to Galilee. There on a mountaintop Jesus gave his instructions. Jesus knew he would be returning to heaven to be with his Father. The disciples and other followers would no longer see him every day. He needed the disciples to be strong and courageous so they could carry on his work.

Jesus spoke to the disciples and gave them instructions. (*Read Matthew 28:18-20 aloud from your Bible.*) Jesus wanted the disciples to tell other people about him, to baptize those who became believers, and to teach them Jesus' commands. Their mission was to witness to the world. If the world was going to hear about Jesus, his love, and his gift of life, they were going to have to be the ones to tell it. But, he promised that they would be given power to do this. He told them that when they returned to Jerusalem for the Passover that they were to stay there until they received that power.

About a week later, Jesus and his disciples were on the Mount of Olives. Jesus reminded them of their mission. ***Read Acts 1:8 aloud from your Bible.*** He was telling them that the Holy Spirit would give them power to tell about him. They were to tell people in Jerusalem, the city where they were. They were to tell people in Judea, the area around Jerusalem. They were to tell people in Samaria, the country to the north filled with people they did not like. And they were to tell people to the ends of the earth, which meant the whole world wherever there are people. Jesus was saying that everyone, everywhere, must be told. This mission wasn't just meant for those who lived when Jesus did, but for all of us today who believe in Jesus. It is our mission today.

After Jesus reminded them of their purpose, he was taken up "before their very eyes" and a cloud hid him from sight. They just stood there looking up. Can you imagine it? He just started rising off the ground and kept going until they lost sight of him in the clouds. They must have been standing there staring with their mouths hanging open! Then two messengers from heaven dressed in white appeared. They asked, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

The disciples returned to Jerusalem to wait as Jesus had told them. They were rejoicing and praising Jesus as the risen Savior.

Closing: Review the story as you look at the teaching picture. Pray, asking God to help us in our mission of telling others about Jesus.

Remembering Our Journey **(Review Bible Story)**

Resources needed: Game board (from session 1); sandal markers (from session 1); gift bag;
Resource Item 28: Review Question Cards (Session 5); 8 ½" x 11" blue card stock; review questions from previous sessions

Prepare: Print the review questions (**Resource Item 28**) for Session 5 on blue card stock.

Laminate, cut apart, and place in the gift bag. Provide the game board, sandal markers, gift bag, direction cards and questions from the previous sessions.

Teach: Divide the group by their nametags or decide a fun way to divide them into teams. Play the game as directed in the first session. After using the questions from Session 5, add the questions from Sessions 1-4. Congratulate all teams for their participation.

Questions, Answers, and Number of Spaces to Move for Review Game:

1. Where was Jesus going with the two men walking down the road from Jerusalem? (Emmaus) **3**
2. How did Jesus explain the truth of who he was to the two men as they walked? (used Scripture from Moses through the Prophets) **3**
3. When did the two men recognize Jesus? (when he took bread, prayed, and gave it to them) **2**
4. What did the two men do after they walked back to Jerusalem? (told the disciples that Jesus was who he said he was and that he was alive) **2**
5. Where did the women say that Jesus wanted them to go? (Galilee) **1**
6. Why was it so important for Jesus to give instructions to his disciples? (He was leaving earth to go to heaven.) **3**
7. How were the disciples going to receive power to be witnesses? (Holy Spirit would come on them) **3**
8. What is a Christian witness? (one who tells about Jesus) **2**
9. Where are we to be witnesses? (to the ends of the earth/everywhere) **3**
10. How did Jesus leave earth for heaven? (rose up into the clouds) **1**

Transition to Small Group Activities: Call the children by nametag color or call the teacher's name to dismiss the children to their small groups. After completing the small group activity in the room, they will rotate to different teachers and rooms for ***Our Daily Bread (Snack), Pick up Your Feet (Recreation) Unroll the Scroll (Bible Skills), and Other Mission Journeys (Missions).***

Small Group Bible Activity

Sharing Our Journey (Week-long Activity)

Prepare: Be sure all four newspapers are complete. Designate a child or children to tell about a specific part of their paper.

Teach: Finish the last details of the newspaper if necessary. Allow each group to practice sharing about their story. Instruct the other groups to be polite and good listeners as each group shares its newspaper with them.

Guide the Bible activity: Ask the first group to bring their newspaper to the front of the class.

Direct the children to share about the part of the newspaper they have been assigned. Start with the name of the newspaper the group chose. Also, read the headline and the story. Then, the next child from the same group shares another part of the paper. Continue in the same manner with each group until all children have shared and all four newspapers have been "read." After all four have finished, attach the newspapers to the wall so the children can look at them more and parents can view the completed work.

Journey Through the Marketplace (Rotating Activities)

Our 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)

Suggested activities may be found on the VBS 2016 page at www.baptistwaypress.org.

Unroll the Scroll (Daily Bible Verse Skills)

Resources needed: Bible scrolls (from session 4); extra copies for new children; pencils; clear tape;

Prepare: Make copies of the Bible verse puzzles if needed for new children.

Guide the activity: Give each child a copy of the Session 5 Bible verse puzzle (two pages), a pair of scissors, glue or a glue stick. Explain that for today's puzzle they must cut apart the words and glue them in the correct order on the blank lines. If using a glue bottle, remind the children to only use a small dot to glue their words. Offer help as needed. Once a child has completed their daily Bible verse puzzle, encourage them to add it to their scroll by taping it to the right of the session four daily Bible verse puzzle. Since their scroll is now complete, they may add the second dowel stick, straw, or cardboard tube on the right side of the front of the session five puzzle. Roll up the scroll when complete and secure with the chenille stem.

Other Mission Journeys (Missions)

Resources needed: Resource Item 29: Mission Story and Picture

Prepare: Make a copy of the mission story and picture.

Introduce and tell the Mission story: *Today, our mission story highlights the BOUNCERS as they ministered to the city of West. An explosion of a fertilizer plant left 15 people dead and about one-fourth of the homes in the community completely destroyed. Listen to this story and how students impacted the small community.* Show the picture after telling the story.

Prayer: Continue to pray for the community of West as they continue to bounce back from this tragedy.

Journey On Down the Road

(Closing activity in small groups or activity at the end of the large group time)

Resources needed: Die-cut footprints (prepared in session 1); 9" x 12" construction paper (any colors); markers or pencils

Prepare: If footprints for each day were not prepared before session 1, die-cut more footprint shapes for the each child.

Guide the activity: Instruct the children to write a question about the Bible story on one side of a footprint and something they can do to follow in Jesus' footsteps on the other side. Encourage the children to take the footprint home and ask the question about the story to a parent, friend, or sibling. Then, ask them to share what they wrote on the back of the footprint.