



## VBS 2015 Music Rotation: Journey off the Map

### Purpose Statement

This two-hour plan is designed to train and equip leaders to conduct Lifeway's *Journey off the Map* (JOTM) Music Rotation using the leader guide.

### Resources to Collect, Prepare, & Copy

#### Resources to Collect

- VBS 2015 Music Rotation Leader Guide with DVD
- VBS 2015 Music CD
- VBS 2015 Administrative Guide
- VBS 2015 Decorating Made Easy
- 25 sheets of colored paper (10 green, 10 orange, and 5 yellow – or other color combos)
- 2 blindfolds
- Large Roll of crepe paper streamers (any bright color)
- Black sharpie
- Brown accordion folder
- White poster board (or any light color)

#### Resources to Prepare

- Number the 10 sheets of green paper and the 10 sheets of orange paper from 1-10 (one number largely printed on each sheet). You will have two sets of colored paper numbered 1-10.
- Choose an area of the room (up front, along the back or down an aisle) to lay each set of numbers in a staggered path on the floor, beginning with 1 and ending with 10.
- Write the words *Glory, Holy, Splendor, Hallelujah* and *Mercy* on the 5 yellow sheets of paper (one word largely printed on each sheet).
- Cut apart the Daily Bible Content Cards (see attachment at the end of the teaching plan) and enlarge each card onto one sheet. Place the five cards into the accordion folder.
- Label the brown accordion folder "Survival Guide" (written or printed out).
- Letter "He's the Way" on the poster (use print out or cut out letters or write with sharpie).
- Cue the "Music Decorating Video" on the laptop at: <http://blog.lifeway.com/vbs/rotations/>.

#### Resources to Copy

- "Stay on Track" handout (end of teaching plan), one per conferee

### **Focal Table Description**

Display the Music Rotation Leader Guide with DVD. Gather journey items such as... dragonflies, butterflies, bugs, compass, binoculars, canteen, maps, backpacks, bandanas. Consider using the VBS 2015 Tablecloth.

### **Room Setup Description**

Arrange chairs in two or more rows of semi-circles. Place the focal table at the front of the room to the side of the TV/DVD or screen.

### **Decoration Suggestions**

Create the atmosphere of "Rushing Waters" with light blue and white paper, plastic or cloth draped from the wall or ceilings to look like the falls. Cover items with gray paper to mimic large rocks or spray paint cut foam in rock shapes. Consider some of the recommendations found on page 29 of the leader guide.

### **Audio-Visual Needs**

- Laptop computer with CD/DVD player
- Projector (to connect with laptop)
- Large screen (if unable to project onto focal wall)
- TV/DVD player (if laptop & projector is unavailable)

### **Teaching Steps**

#### **1. Welcome (5 minutes)**

- Play the theme song "Journey off the Map" as conferees arrive.
- Introduce yourself. "Welcome to Journey off the Map! This year we will take kids on an adventure to uncharted territory where they will begin to understand that obedience to God can lead them beyond the expected."
- Ask the conferees to stand as you count them off 1-2-3-4. Instruct the 1's to get in a line behind the #1 on one color of the path, the 2's to line up at the other color #1. Instruct the 3's to line up at the #10 and 4's at the remaining #10 on the path. Now there should be four fairly equal lines of conferees with a staggered number path between them.

#### **2. Intro Activity (20 minutes)**

- Explain instructions for blind-guide relay activity: "We are going to embark on a Journey off the Map" adventure of our own today! The person in front will be blindfolded and the person directly behind will be their guide. Without touching them, you must use voice commands only to direct your blindfolded partner from one number to the next. They must step on each number in order and without running into the opposite team or stepping on their numbers. The guide must follow closely behind their partner and may instruct them how many steps to take and whether to go left or right. Once you and your partner reach the other side, hand off the blindfold for the next two people to go back from 10 to 1. Continue the relay until everyone has gone through the path.
- Conduct activity. Play theme song softly in background (as listening is key for this game.)
- Invite conferees to be seated. Discuss the activity. Note the importance of knowing your guide and listening and following your guide's instructions. Note interference noise.
- Relate the activity to JOTM: "Journey off the Map challenges kids to know, follow, and trust the ultimate guide – Jesus – even in the face of uncertainty, because what is

unknown to us is always known to Him. Our motto this year is 'This is the way, walk in it.' It is taken from our Scripture for the week, Isaiah 30:21. Let's read it together."

- Display the verse from the DVD and read it aloud together.
- "What a wonderful Guide we have in the Lord Jesus Christ, who gently leads us wherever we turn and shows us the way of life everlasting. What a challenge lies within this verse as well. A challenge to listen to the voice of the Lord and follow His command to walk in the way He directs. Let's pray."
- Pray asking God to *guide* your time together during the conference.

### 3. Prep for Leading VBS (10 minutes)

- Give quick overview of materials: "The Music Rotation Leader Guide with DVD is much like years past. Each day is outlined with an overview of the Bible story the children will hear at the Tangled Branch Tree House. The lesson plan is laid out for teaching the music and choreography. The DVD that comes with the leader guide has instructions for choreography, performance videos and lyrics."
- Note the change: "This year you will notice there is no sign language in the choreography! No worries about getting anything backwards or if the children (or you) go to the left or right, as long as you're together! Focus is on worshiping God."
- Encourage leaders that preparation and organization are made easier with decorating tips on page 29 and a supplies list on page 30 of the leader guide.

### 4. Presentation (60 minutes)

#### Overview

- "Here at the Rushing Waters on our Journey off the Map, kids will engage in fun songs that will reinforce the biblical truths from their Bible study time at the Tangled Branch Tree House. The first day of VBS will establish Jesus as our ultimate guide for life. On days 2-4, kids will explore stories from the book of Daniel that show how Daniel and his friends followed and trusted God, even in the face of uncertainty. Then on day 5 kids learn that our journey is part of a much bigger story that includes God's promises of things to come. We are going to review the daily Bible content together and then highlight the songs as well as some of the activities you will be teaching during the week of VBS."
- Draw attention to the "Survival Guide" (accordion folder) and invite 5 people across the front row to reach in and take out one of the five Daily Bible Content cards.
- "Let's quickly review each day's biblical content together." Have the person read the Day 1 card. Continue with Days 2-5. Discuss as necessary and as time permits.

#### Day 1: Know Your Guide

- Ask for a volunteer to describe for everyone the job of a guide. Share Webster's definition of a guide: someone who has intimate knowledge of the way and of all its difficulties and dangers.
- Begin moving your elbows alternately outward and back and forth as if shoving through brush (like the choreography) and explain "On Day 1 we are going to discuss how a guide, who knows everything about where we are going, goes ahead to clear the trail so we can follow. He 'makes a way through the wilderness', as the first line of our song begins."
- Invite conferees to stand and move along to the performance video of "Jesus Is Our Guide" from the DVD.
- After the song ends, ask conferees if they did every motion just right! The answer will be no. Ask them to show you how many of the motions they remembered, demonstrating with a flat hand held at their ankles (very few), at their knees (some), at their waist (half),

at their shoulders (most), or at their forehead (all motions correct). Tell conferees that this is called their "I did it" level and it's a fun way for the kids to measure how their coming along learning the songs each day.

- Have conferees turn to the lyrics for "Jesus is our Guide" on page 31 in the leader guide (if they have one). Encourage leaders to help kids connect the song to the Bible truths. Jesus is the only One who can protect, defend, and always make a way because He is God's Son who conquered sin and death!

### **Day 2: Follow Your Guide**

- Begin with a little game of "follow the leader" – using motions from the Day 2 song "Follow." Explain that this day is all about learning to follow our ultimate guide, Jesus.
- Play the Day 2 instruction video from the DVD for "Follow." Challenge the conferees to see how well they follow the leader.
- After the instruction video, play the instruction video with music.
- Have conferees show you their "I did it" level.
- Give input on kazoos and whistling. Invite discussion of other ideas.

### **Day 3: Trust Your Guide**

- Dim the lights and spotlight the "He's the Way" sign at the front. Explain to conferees that the Day 3 song spotlights the most important message the kids will hear all week: Jesus, "He's the Way, the only way to Heaven." This is our A-B-C song day.
- Ask for a volunteer to share what the "A" stands for and follow with volunteers for "B" and "C." Invite them to join you at the front. Demonstrate the motions for the ABC's from the song. Ask if there are any musicians in the room. Have them (2-3) come join you at the front as well and show them how they will lead everyone in playing their best air guitar.
- Invite everyone to stand and join the others in the ABC motions and air guitar while you show the lyrics video of "He's the Way." Tell them that the Bible story for the day is the fiery furnace, so this song has some fire to it!
- Congratulate your talented group of helpers and invite everyone to give themselves a round of applause and be seated.

### **Day 4: Stay On Track**

- Give each conferee a copy of the handout "Stay on Track."
- "We can't look at the life of Daniel without talking about the lion's den! On Day 4, kids will see that no matter what changed around Daniel, he kept his focus on God, who never changes, and kept doing what he knew would please Him."
- Ask conferees to fill in their handout.
  - Make a list of things that distract us from focusing on Jesus.  
Possible answers: ourselves, hobbies, work, family, friends, technology, sin
  - Make a list of things that are distractions for the kids we encounter at VBS.  
Possible answers: school, friends, games, sports, toys, entertainment
  - Make a list of ways that we can keep our eyes on Jesus and "stay on track".  
Possible answers: prayer, Bible study, church, accountability, memorize Scripture
- Invite conferees to discuss their answers from the lists they have made and share ways that we can encourage others to focus on Jesus and stay on track.
- Have everyone stand. Demonstrate the "stay on track" motions from the song. Share how having a hand on the shoulder of another person is a good illustration of how we can stay on track with the accountability and support of other Christians.
- Play the "Stay on Track" performance video.

### **Day 5: Keep Watching**

- Ask five conferees to come up and give each one a “word” to hold (on the yellow paper). Call out the word *Glory* and have the conferee hold up that word. Invite conferees to give words that describe its meaning. Continue through all five words.
- “Our song for Day 5 uses these five words. This activity is designed to help the kids better understand what each word means. As you read through the lyrics on pages 31-35 of your leader guide, you may note other words or phrases that, based on the age group, may also need clarifying. Always take a moment to explain and put things on their level of understanding - from what a banner is on day one to the final hallelujah of day five. You can find age-group characteristics in the Administrative Guide for Directors if you need.”
- Pass around the roll of crepe paper streamers. Instruct conferees to tear off two lengths about two-foot each and then pass the roll to their neighbor. While the roll is going around, demonstrate the motions for the chorus of “Your Glory is Forever.” Invite conferees to stand and watch the performance video and wave their streamers along with the motions in the chorus.

### **5. Review (15 minutes)**

- Note that the Music Rotation Leader Guide has additional tips and suggestions in the margins. Helpful articles are included to guide teachers in leading children to Christ, conducting VBS, and decorating the Rushing Waters Music Rotation.
- Share decorating ideas from the Music Rotation Leader Guide page 29. Invite conferees to share their own ideas.
- There are also fabulous helps on the Lifeway VBS website. Display the website, click on the Rotations tab and then Music. Walk conferees through the page and then show the decorating tips video.
- Allow conferees to ask questions regarding the music rotation for VBS 2015.
- Entertain ideas and suggestions for structuring the session for churches with a scaled-back or extended schedule.

### **6. Closing (10 minutes)**

- Ask the conferees to find a partner – perhaps the person they worked with in the blind-fold activity. Say: “You are helping kids know, trust and follow Jesus as their ultimate guide this year in Journey off the Map. When kids learn to obey and follow God, it changes the course of their life, their family’s life, and even the community and world. Let’s pray for kids, leaders and churches to listen for God’s command from our VBS Scripture: ‘This is the way’ and then choose to ‘Walk in it.’”
- Give conferees a few minutes to pray together with their partners and then pray aloud for the group: “God, we thank you for Jesus, the ultimate guide for our lives. He has not only made a way in the wilderness – but He alone is the way. Thank you that we can trust Him in the face of the unexpected because what is unknown to us is known to Him. We look to You - our Guide - as we prepare and lead others this year in VBS. Amen.”



Make a list of things that distract us from focusing on Jesus.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Make a list of things that are distractions for the kids we encounter at VBS.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Make a list of ways that we can keep our eyes on Jesus and “stay on track”.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Daily Bible Content Cards

	<p><b>Day 1: KNOW YOUR GUIDE</b></p> <p>Jesus' birth was announced and angels declared that He is the Messiah. Jesus spent time teaching and healing people. He died for our sins, was buried, and on the third day He arose. Jesus is our ultimate Guide. Galatians 4:4-5; Luke 2:8-11 Matthew 4:23-25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5</p>
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	<p><b>Day 2: FOLLOW YOUR GUIDE</b></p> <p>Daniel and his friends were among the Jewish captives chosen to serve in the king's palace. The food provided for them broke the laws God had given the Jewish people. Daniel chose to follow his Guide and requested permission to be given vegetables and water instead. Daniel 1</p>
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	<p><b>Day 3: TRUST YOUR GUIDE</b></p> <p>Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow and worship the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had built. As a result, the three friends were thrown into a fiery furnace. They trusted God whether He chose to save them or allowed them to perish. Daniel 3</p>
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	<p><b>Day 4: STAY ON TRACK</b></p> <p>Daniel consistently did what was right and kept his focus on God. Even when the king signed an edict that made it illegal to pray to anyone but the king, Daniel continued to pray openly to God. Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, but God closed the lions' mouths. Daniel 6</p>
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	<p><b>Day 5: KEEP WATCHING</b></p> <p>Daniel received a vision of things to come. Jesus also told His disciples about things to come. God tells believers to keep watching for Jesus' return and to obey His Word. Daniel 10:7-12; 12:13 John 14:1-4; Revelation 22:7</p>
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