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Jared Kennedy, Mandy Groce,
Tessa Janes, Kara Jenkins,
& Fletcher Lang

DIRECTOR'S GUIDE



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WELCOME TO THE **Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet** VBS DIRECTOR'S GUIDE

As director of *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* VBS, you get to lead the way in this celebration of God's love and greatness. Take some time to read through this director's guide and become familiar with all the elements of this curriculum. You'll be excited to share the vision with your team!

On the DVD-ROM, in addition to this Director's Guide, you will find:

- ✱ an Assembly—Music—Drama Guide that contains all assembly and drama scripts and music;
- ✱ a Preschool Classroom Guide designed for the leaders of the self-contained preschool class;
- ✱ Elementary (K–5th grade) guides for Bible study, crafts, games, and snacks rotation leaders;
- ✱ PowerPoint files with song lyrics
- ✱ PowerPoint presentation of *Are You Close to God?* evangelistic booklet; and
- ✱ customizable posters, Facebook banners, and bulletin inserts; volunteer recruitment and preregistration forms; and clip art.

Other materials in your Starter Kit include:

- ✱ *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* CD with five songs. (Lead sheets, chord charts, and hand motions can be found in the Assembly—Music—Drama Leader Guide.)
- ✱ One *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* silicone wristband (A great way to reward memory work. Order more ahead of time. Sold separately in packs of ten.)
- ✱ One *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* iron-on transfer (Order more ahead of time and distribute at VBS registration for participants to iron on to their own T-shirts. Sold separately in packs of ten.)
- ✱ Online access to music videos for each song

Additional copies of the above can be purchased separately at www.newgrowthpress.com or (tel.) 336-378-7775.



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Introduction

"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. (Psalm 100:1–2)

Worship begins when God speaks and we respond. God says, "I have restored your fortunes" (Psalm 126:1–2). Then, we respond with laughter, because we know that we don't deserve it. God says, "I made you. You are mine. You are my people and the sheep of my pasture" (Psalm 100). Then, we respond by shouting for joy and giving him thanks. That's just how worship works. God shows himself to us. Then, we respond to his revelation with joy and praise.

Every time we lead kids in worship, we call kids to praise the Lord responsively—"Clap your hands! Sing out! Raise your hands! Shout Hallelujah!" One of the dangers inherent in teaching children to worship in this way is that we sometimes call them to do the work of responding without first showing them how God has spoken. If children don't first hear who God is and what he has done to save, our call to worship can become just another demand for performance. But if we tell kids the story of our Great King, they'll rejoice at the privilege of praising him. Jesus has come to earth to rescue his lost children. He is the King who has chosen, rescued, forgiven and befriended us. His love is better than life. It never fails. That's why we sing and shout.

That is the motivation behind the *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Vacation Bible School. We want to hear God speak about who he is and what he has done for us. Then, we want to call children to respond to God's goodness and greatness with truly *responsive* worship.

- ✱ Laugh! God chooses surprising people! (1 Samuel 16)
- ✱ Clap! God wins the battle! (1 Samuel 17).
- ✱ Sing! God is our faithful friend! (1 Samuel 20).
- ✱ Shout! God is with us! (2 Samuel 6).
- ✱ Give Thanks! God shows his kindness! (2 Samuel 9)

We want to tell children about the great love of our king and then call them to respond to him by making a joyful noise.



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Your Job Description

Your job is to plan and shepherd the Vacation Bible School program. This involves recruiting, training, and motivating teams who will share Jesus with children through Bible study, music, drama, crafts, big games, and snacks during the Bible School week.

Please take time to read through this director's manual. It is your step-by-step guide for planning your Vacation Bible School. As you are working through this guide, begin praying for the leaders and teams under your care and supervision. Begin praying now for the kids and families God will bring to your church! Pray for open doors to share the gospel, and pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare hearts to receive the good news.

Sample Preschool Schedule and Provided Resources

In the curriculum set you have purchased, you will find five preschool lessons. These lessons are designed for use in self-contained preschool classrooms for ages 3-4. They can follow the following sample schedule:

TIME	LENGTH OF TIME (MIN)	PRESCHOOLERS
9:00–9:35	35	Opening Assembly
9:35–9:50	15	Greeting/Tactile Activity
9:50–10:10	20	Opening Circle/Story Time
10:10–10:30	20	Snack
10:30–10:50	20	Bible Learning Activities
10:50–11:25	35	Gross Motor Play (Indoor or Outdoor)
11:25–11:45	20	Craft Time
11:45–12:00	15	Closing Assembly or Closing Circle

If you wish for preschoolers to join the larger closing assembly with the elementary students, you can adjust this schedule accordingly.

While preschool materials are designed for a self-contained classroom, the VBS director may decide to designate rotating teams for snacks, crafts, and games who will bring corresponding supplies to the classroom and lead the activity they are responsible for, thus providing preschool teachers with a short break during the VBS day.

Sample Elementary Schedule and Provided Resources

In the curriculum set you have purchased, you will also find five elementary lessons. These lessons are designed for use with elementary groups (Children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade) that rotate among stations for the assembly, art/crafts, Bible study, games, and snack. See the sample schedule below:

TIME	K	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5
9:00	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly
9:35	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games
10:10	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts	Snack/Music	Snack/Music
10:45	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts
11:20	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study
11:55	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing

The Assembly Guide gives direction for a large group time that is designed for multiple age groups. In the sample schedule we've provided, parents of elementary age children will meet teachers to drop off and pick up their kids at the Assembly each day.

VBS Director's Planning Checklist

In the section below, you will find a step-by-step guide for planning your Vacation Bible School.

10 MONTHS BEFORE VBS

- ☐ Begin praying for the event. Ask God to prepare the hearts of church members, volunteers, and the children who will attend.
- ☐ Review the theme and Bible lessons for this year's VBS, and begin familiarizing yourself with this material. It is important for the director to be familiar with all materials since you will be casting the vision for this program and recruiting the teams that will implement it.
- ☐ Read through and review this entire checklist as well as all volunteer job descriptions.

- ☐ Choose the format you will use for this coming VBS. Will it be a backyard club or an on-site VBS at your church's facility? Will preschool classes be self-contained, or will you use some rotating teams? If you have done a VBS in a previous year, this is a good time to review your notes and consider any changes to the event.
- ☐ Schedule the event. Work with other church leaders to reserve the date and facilities you will need for VBS on your church calendar.
- ☐ Establish a budget. The budget should be specific to ensure you don't overspend. Consider what you will spend on the following categories:

• Promotion / Advertisements	\$ _____
• Music/Assembly Supplies	\$ _____
• Decorations / Sets and Props	\$ _____
• Preschool Lesson Supplies	\$ _____
• Elementary Bible Time Supplies	\$ _____
• Elementary Craft Supplies	\$ _____
• Big Games Supplies	\$ _____
• Snack Supplies	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

You will want to consider the supply lists we've included at the beginning of each of the area guidebooks. If money is tight, consider setting up a collection site for supply donations instead of purchasing everything that you will need.

6 MONTHS BEFORE VBS

- ☐ Continue praying for VBS.
- ☐ Recruit and confirm job descriptions with the key leadership team for the event.

Consider recruiting one person as the key leader for each of the following preparatory positions:

- ✦ **Volunteer Management**—Recruit volunteers and communicate all necessary information about assignments, job descriptions, and training meetings.
- ✦ **Promotion / Preregistration**—Promote VBS to the church and the community. Gather information from families for preregistration.
- ✦ **Decorations**—Decorate hallways, classrooms, and the stage in keeping with the VBS theme.

- + **Supply Gathering**—Gather supplies needed for VBS.

Consider recruiting one person as the key leader for each of the VBS week positions:

- + **Registration / Hospitality**—Lead teams that warmly welcome every family and quickly register each child.
- + **Assembly**—Lead teams and lead announcements from the stage during the opening and closing assemblies.
- + **Music**—Lead worship or worship teams during opening and closing assemblies each day, and optional, lead the music center rotation for elementary children, and lead the music times in preschool classrooms.
- + **Preschool Classroom Teachers**—The entire VBS morning is contained within the preschool classroom and any available outdoor play space. There is a bible story, lesson activities, crafts, snacks, and big games activities provided in the booklet. Depending on the setup of your VBS, designated leaders for the following areas may bring the craft materials and/or snacks to you.
- + **Preschool Crafts** (optional)—Lead each preschool classroom in craft activities at an assigned time on the schedule. Your team will travel to the classroom.
- + **Preschool Snacks** (optional)—Prepare and bring snacks to all preschool classrooms at an assigned time.
- + **Elementary Teachers**—Gather your class at the beginning of the VBS day at the assembly, lead them from station to station during the day, build relationships with the students in your group, and lead them in the daily Bible Study.
- + **Elementary Crafts**—Leads each elementary rotation in craft activities at an assigned classroom. Kids will travel to your station.
- + **Elementary Big Games**—Lead each elementary rotation in big games at an assigned area. Kids will travel to your station.
- + **Elementary Snacks**—Prepare and serve snacks to all elementary children at an assigned area. Kids will travel to your station. Also prepare a table for teachers.

In addition to these positions, you may consider recruiting 1) a qualified team to handle any medical and security emergencies, 2) a photographer/videographer to capture memories, and 3) a cleanup crew to help pick up at the end of the week.

- ☐ **Volunteer Management Leader**—Estimate the number of children who will attend your VBS and determine your staff need. Begin recruiting the volunteer team. The most effective recruiting methods vary by church culture, but consider using the form that we've included on page 10.

6 MONTHS BEFORE VBS (continued)

In addition to these positions, you may consider recruiting 1) a qualified team to handle any medical and security emergencies, 2) a photographer/videographer to capture memories, and 3) a cleanup crew to help pick up at the end of the week.

- ☐ **Decorations Leader**—Begin planning /decorating decorations for the event site. The decorations should coordinate with the event theme. Here are some ideas for the *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* theme:

- + Create giant posters for the hallways with the five main truths from the lesson.
- + Decorate hallways and stage with praise words, praise actions, and clapping hands/stomping feet.

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PRESCHOOL
CLASSROOM GUIDE



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Introduction

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Worship begins when God speaks and we respond. God says, "I have restored your fortunes" (Psalm 126:1–2). Then, we respond with laughter, because we know that we don't deserve it. God says, "I made you. You are mine. You are my people and the sheep of my pasture" (Psalm 100). Then, we respond by shouting for joy and giving him thanks. That's just how worship works. God shows himself to us. Then, we respond to his revelation with joy and praise.

Every time we lead kids in worship, we call kids to praise the Lord responsively—"Clap your hands! Sing out! Raise your hands! Shout Hallelujah!" One of the dangers inherent in teaching children to worship in this way is that we sometimes call them to do the work of responding without first showing them how God has spoken. If children don't first hear who God is and what he has done to save, our call to worship can become just another demand for performance. But if we tell kids the story of our Great King, they'll rejoice at the privilege of praising him. Jesus has come to earth to rescue his lost children. He is the King who has chosen, rescued, forgiven and befriended us. His love is better than life. It never fails. That's why we sing and shout.

That is the motivation behind the *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Vacation Bible School. We want to hear God speak about who he is and what he has done for us. Then, we want to call children to respond to God's goodness and greatness with truly *responsive* worship.

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- ★ Shout! God is with his people! (2 Samuel 6).
- ★ Give Thanks! God shows his kindness! (2 Samuel 9)

We want to tell children about the great love of our king and then call them to respond to him by making a joyful noise.



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Your Job Description

Your job is to gather your class at the beginning of the VBS day in the main assembly, take them to your self-contained classroom, and lead Bible story and lesson activities in your classroom. Depending on the setup for your VBS, you may be responsible to lead the crafts, snacks, and games described in this booklet as well, or designated leaders for those areas may bring the craft materials, games, and snacks to you.

Please take time to read through the preschool curriculum in the remainder of this book. Be sure to get familiar with your materials before VBS. Be praying now for the kids and families God will be bringing to your church! Pray for open doors for the gospel, and let your leaders know if you have any questions.

Sample Preschool Schedule

TIME	LENGTH OF TIME (MIN)	PRESCHOOLERS
9:00–9:35	35	Opening Assembly
9:35–9:50	15	Greeting/Tactile Activity
9:50–10:10	20	Opening Circle/Story Time
10:10–10:30	20	Snack
10:30–10:50	20	Bible Learning Activities
10:50–11:25	35	Gross Motor Play (Indoor or Outdoor)
11:25–11:45	20	Craft Time
11:45–12:00	15	Closing Assembly or Closing Circle

If you wish for preschoolers to join the larger closing assembly with the elementary students, you can adjust this schedule accordingly.

Story Circle Format

The Story Circle times outlined in this booklet are in the following hook-book-look* format:

- ★ **HOOK—Grab their attention!** A HOOK activity is designed to introduce and overview the lesson. This is a preparation activity designed to engage the child's senses as well as introduce new vocabulary and concepts. This part of the lesson is intended to capture the attention of the children, to set the stage for God's Word. In this way, the HOOK activity speaks to the contemplative learning style, and it answers the question, "Why do I need to know this?"
- ★ **BOOK Time—This is where you school them!** This is intended to be an interactive time. The BOOK time speaks to the analytic learning style, and it answers the question, "What do I need to know?" The Bible story is the main focus of the lesson. Since learning about God through the Bible is our primary point, we've been pains-

taking about putting quality preparation into studying the Scripture passage and writing clear, interesting, and interactive stories. The truths of Scripture should be explained in a way the children will understand and enjoy. Each successive day of VBS will build on these stories, bringing increasingly profound truths to the children's attention, so don't feel pressured to communicate everything at once. Use the visual aids to help keep the children's interest. A child's attention span is one minute per year of age, so preschoolers have an attention span of three to six minutes. Make the most of these precious minutes!

- ✱ **LOOK—Look at your heart. Look to Jesus. What should you do?** The LOOK section works in two ways. First, we want our kids to look to Jesus—seeing Jesus at the heart and center of the Bible story we are teaching. Second, we want our kids to look at their hearts and connect the lesson to their lives. So, we have tried to include creative activities for helping children move from the Bible to practical application. Sometimes it is helpful to have the children move from the story circle to another location to transition their thinking in this way. The LOOK activity speaks to the pragmatic learning style, and it answers the questions, “How does this truth work? How does it work out in my life?”

**For more information about learning styles and the HBLT method, see Lawrence O. Richards and Gary J. Bredfeldt, Creative Bible Teaching (Chicago: Moody Press, 1970, 1998), pp.151–165, 292–97.*

Supplies

General Supplies for the Week

Every lesson requires a Bible, the provided story visual, music for background during snack, crayons or markers, glue sticks, and precut paper crafts with scissors.

Daily Supplies

Day 1: Laugh!

- ✱ Paper plates
- ✱ Safety scissors
- ✱ Crayons or markers for royal crown
- ✱ Story visual (David with sheep Fig. 2)
- ✱ Precut laughing mouths (Fig. 4) glued to craft sticks
- ✱ Craft pages (fig. 4b, 4c)
- ✱ Baby Oil (Post an allergy alert!)
- ✱ Coloring pages (David with sheep black & white)
- ✱ *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Music CD
- ✱ A small gift bow
- ✱ Something to make for your teaching: two gifts. One should be a beautifully wrapped box with a can of spinach inside. The other should be an ugly/old box—perhaps a cardboard box you’ve received in the mail but ripped and torn) with some fun stickers inside

Day 2: Clap!

- * Craft page clappers (Fig. 1)
- * Craft sticks (enough for clapper hands and slingshot craft)
- * Cotton balls or pom-poms
- * Yarn
- * Glue
- * Clap! God Wins the Battle template printouts (for slingshot craft Fig. 5)
- * Story visual (David and Goliath Fig. 2)
- * A plastic tub filled with sand. Bury five smooth stones in the sand
- * Goliath illustration cutout (6, Fig. 6)
- * Empty 2 liter soda bottles (6)
- * Tape
- * Beanbags (3–5)
- * Coloring page (David and Goliath Fig. 3)
- * *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Music CD
- * Something to make for your teaching: Decorate the room as the battlefield, the Valley of Elah, from today's story. There should be two campsites—one for God's people and one for the Philistines—as well as a field where the boy David tended sheep. You can bring small tents or make tents with sheets draped over chairs. Use crumpled, brown butcher paper for big rocks, and a sheet of green butcher paper for the field. Consider adding some other props to your scene to make it come alive—a slingshot, a shepherd's staff, a paper bag of food for David's brothers, a shepherd's pouch (or messenger bag), a shield, sword, and armor.

Day 3: Sing!

- * Friendship Bingo pages (Fig. 1)
- * Beans or buttons for place markers on bingo mats
- * Stickers (for bingo prizes)
- * Story visual (David and Jonathan Fig. 2)
- * Craft page microphones (Fig. 4)
- * *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Music CD
- * Play dough
- * Coloring page (David and Jonathan Fig. 3)
- * Two sections of 2 Samuel 22 printed out as shown in the LOOK section below for each learning center
- * Something to make for your teaching: Create props for acting out the story in 2 Samuel 22. Suggested props include a life saver, fire, and bolts of lightning made from poster board.

Day 4: Shout!

- * Sturdy clear plastic plates (2 for each child)
- * Stapler
- * Streamers
- * Decorations, including stickers, foam stickers, markers
- * Beans, colorful pom-poms, and colorful beads
- * Glue
- * Story visual (Ark of the Covenant Fig. 1)
- * Craft page megaphones (Fig. 3)
- * *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Music CD
- * Beanbags
- * Something to make for your teaching: Make a homemade Ark of the Covenant from a wooden or cardboard box. Spray paint it gold and place two angels on top facing one another.
- * Coloring page (Ark of the Covenant Fig. 2)

Day 5: Give Thanks!

- * Story visual (David and Mephibosheth Fig. 1)
- * Coloring pages (David and Mephibosheth Fig. 2)
- * Craft page cups (Fig. 4) and precut thank you drops craft pages (Fig. 3)
- * Glue or glue sticks
- * Construction paper and stickers
- * Something to bring for your teaching: a toy kitchen set or plastic plates and silverware

PRESCHOOL DAY 1

LAUGH!

MAIN POINT:

Laugh! God chooses surprising people!

SCRIPTURE:

1 Samuel 16:1–13; Psalm 126

MEMORY WORK FOR THE WEEK:

“Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.” (Psalm 100:1–2)

TEACHERS:

Take this lesson, study it, and make it your own. Allow the truths of the Scripture to sink into your own heart. Know what you are saying and say it with confidence. Passion and voice inflection are essential with preschoolers. Repeat the main point over and over again.



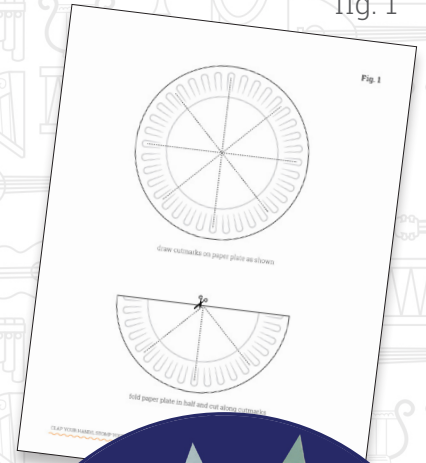
SUPPLIES

- ❖ Paper plates
- ❖ Safety scissors
- ❖ Crayons or markers for royal crown
- ❖ Story visual (David with sheep fig. 2)
- ❖ Precut laughing mouths (fig. 4a)
- ❖ Craft pages (fig. 4b, 4c)
- ❖ Craft sticks
- ❖ Baby oil (*Post an allergy alert!*)
- ❖ Coloring pages (David with sheep fig. 3)
- ❖ *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Music CD
- ❖ A small gift bow
- ❖ *Something to make for your teaching:* two gifts. One should be a beautifully wrapped box with a can of spinach inside. The other should be an ugly/old box—perhaps a cardboard box you’ve received in the mail but ripped and torn with some fun stickers inside

fig. 1

1. Greeting/Tactile Activity (15 minutes)

Have paper plates with cut marks (fig. 1) ready in front of each seat at the table when children first enter the classroom. Pre-school children can be apprehensive about a new classroom, unfamiliar teachers, and unfamiliar kids. Be friendly and confident and direct them to a seat at the table. Explain that today you will be learning how God made a surprising choice for a new king for Israel, and that they are going to make paper plate royal crowns to help tell the story. Have the children cut down the dotted lines with safety scissors (or precut lines for younger students), decorate the triangles and rim, and bend the triangles upward to create their crowns.



2. Story Circle (20 minutes)

Give each child a spot to sit—a carpet square, tile, taped “X” or shape on the floor. Gather the children around you on the floor, and set the two gifts—the beautifully wrapped box with spinach and the old box with stickers—in front of you.

HOOK (Grab their attention)

SAY: Good morning, boys and girls! I’m so happy that you are a part of our class for this first day of Vacation Bible School! All this week, we’re learning about worshipping God. Today, we’re going to worship God with joyful laughter. So, everyone put your hands on your tummy and laugh with me: “Ho! Ho! Hehe!” Great job! Let’s rehearse our main point for the day.

Main Point: *Laugh! God chooses surprising people!*

(Have the kids raise their hands after the laugh part and wiggle/twinkle their fingers. Repeat this several times and get the kids to say it with you. This should be the main point the kids remember about today’s lesson.)

SAY: Now, before we begin our Bible lesson, I have two gifts. I’m going to let some volunteers open them, and then we’re going to share the best gift with the whole class.

ASK: Before we open the gifts, let’s vote on which gift we think is the best. Who Coloring page (David and Goliath Fig. 3) wrapped box has the best gift inside? (*Hold up the nicely wrapped present*). We’ll see. (*Choose one child to hold the first gift.*) Who thinks this second ugly and torn



box has the best gift inside? *(Hold up the torn cardboard box. Choose a second child to hold the second gift.)* Okay, on three I want you to open them. Can everyone help me count? **One, Two, Three!**

ASK: What did you find when you opened the first box, *(first child)? (Direct your question to the child with the nicely wrapped present.)* Oh, I'm sorry. That is not a very fun gift! The box was so pretty! It looked like it would have a wonderful present for us to share inside.

What did you find when you opened the second box, *(second child)? (Direct your question to the child with the torn box.)* Wow! What an exciting gift! I love stickers! Even though that box was ugly on the outside, it had a wonderful gift on the inside. *(Share the stickers with the entire class.)*

SAY: We cannot always know what is within based on how the outside looks. Today, we're going to learn a story about how appearances (the way something looks on the outside) are sometimes surprising. Let's review our main point again.

Main Point: *Laugh! God chooses surprising people!*
(Have the kids raise their hands after saying the word "laugh" and then wiggle/twinkle their fingers.)

BOOK (Teaching Time)

Tell the story below. Try to put it to memory so that you don't have to read it. If the children begin to lose interest, or are younger preschoolers, it may be necessary to either abridge the reading or break it up into two parts in order to keep their attention. **Essential plot points are highlighted to aid in summarizing.**

SAY: Our story today is found in 1 Samuel, chapter 16 *(Show them in your Bible)*. The Bible is God's Word. He wrote it, so we know that every part of it is true. As I read the story, I need you to listen very carefully. This is God's Word! He wants to you to know it so that you may know him.



fig. 2

Now, boys and girls, as I tell you the story, I have some important instructions for you. Every time I do a motion with my hands, I want you to do the same! Listen and watch very closely or you may miss them. Also, anytime I say the word, "king," I want you to put your royal paper crowns on your heads. *(The word "king" is underlined in each instance below to remind you when the children should put on their royal crowns.)*

God gave a king to his people. That king's name was Saul. Saul was a good king for a while, but then he turned away from God. He disobeyed God. He loved doing things his own way instead of following God's ways.

God chose **Samuel** *(Ask: What book is our story in? First Samuel!)* as his messenger. He sent Samuel to warn Saul and correct him again and again. But Saul would not turn away from his sin. Samuel was sad that Saul had turned away from God.

One day, God told Samuel that Saul would not be king for much longer. God had chosen a new king for his people! *(Say "I wonder who it will be" then tap your chin and look up, wondering).*

SAY: God told Samuel to go to Jesse's house in Bethlehem. Jesse had many sons, and one *(Hold up one finger, and prompt the children to follow you)* of them would be the new king! Samuel obeyed what God commanded. He went to Bethlehem. When Samuel saw the oldest son, he thought *(tap finger on forehead)*, "Surely this man will be the king the Lord has chosen!" But God said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or his height, because I have not chosen him *(Shake your finger 'No')*. The Lord sees differently than people do. We look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart *(Place hand over heart)*."

Just like with our two gifts, God says that he doesn't look on the outside like people do. He chooses surprising people! God doesn't choose the strongest and the best. He chooses people who no one else would choose.

Main Point: *Laugh! God chooses surprising people!*
(Have the kids raise their hands after saying the word "laugh" and then wiggle/twinkle their fingers.)

Next, Jesse's other sons passed before Samuel. But each time Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one *(Shake finger "No")*." **Again and again, God said, "No"** *(Shake finger "No"), even*

though seven of Jesse's sons walked in front of Samuel. So, Samuel asked Jesse, "Are *all* of your sons here?" Jesse said, "No. There is still one more (*Hold up one finger*), my youngest. He is keeping the sheep." Samuel told Jesse to send for him and said, "We will not sit down until he comes (*Stand at attention*)!"

Jesse sent for his youngest son and brought him in to Samuel. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for he will be the king." Finally, the youngest son would be the next king of Israel! The young boy's name was David. David was a surprising choice because he was the youngest. How could he be a great king before his brothers who were older and stronger? Only because God chose him!

Samuel took some oil and put it on David's head (*Demonstrate by pouring a small amount of baby oil on the back of your hand and letting the children see/touch it.*). This is called anointing. Can you say "anointing"? (*Prompt the children to say it.*) The anointing showed that David was chosen by God. After this, God's Holy Spirit was with David every day. Wow!

As each child looks at the oil on your hand, say, "Laugh! God chooses surprising people!"

Main Point: *Laugh! God chooses surprising people!*
(*Have the kids raise their hands after saying the word "laugh" and then wiggle/twinkle their fingers.*)

LOOK (Look at your heart. Look to Jesus!)

Begin this closing reflection time by asking the following questions:

ASK: Who does God choose? *Surprising people.*

ASK: Who does God choose in the story? *David.*

ASK: Was David the tallest? Did Samuel want to choose him?
No, David was not the tallest, oldest, or strongest. At first, Samuel wanted to choose one of the older brothers.

ASK: How did Samuel show that David was the chosen king?
He put oil on his head.

ASK: Why do you think God chose David to be the next king of Israel? (*Let the kids give some possible answers and then say...*) *David was not the oldest brother or the strongest brother. He is not the one most people person would*

have chosen to be king. God did not choose David based on what people could see with their eyes, but because God already knew David's heart.

ASK: Do you think that God chose David because he had less sin in his heart? Do you think God chose him because he was the most obedient son? *No! David was not perfect. He was a completely surprising choice, but, in his heart, David trusted God.*

Review Main Point: *Laugh! God chooses surprising people! (Have the kids raise their hands after saying the word "laugh" and then wiggle/twinkle their fingers.)*

SAY: Did you know that Jesus is a surprising choice? No one would have chosen Jesus to be our king. He didn't look strong or handsome like David's older brothers. The prophet Isaiah says, "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him" (Isa. 53:2b). But he is our king! God has chosen to save us through HIM!

SAY: Did you know that we are surprising choices too? We are all sinners. We disobey God every day. None of us are good enough. But God chooses to save surprising people through Jesus.

ASK: How can we respond? *We don't have to be pretty or handsome or strong to respond to God. Because God graciously chooses the people we'd least expect, we can simply laugh with joy and give thanks with a heart of trust.*

Main Point: *Laugh! God chooses surprising people! (Have the kids raise their hands after saying the word "laugh" and then wiggle/twinkle their fingers.)*

3. Snack (20 minutes)

This would be a good time for a restroom break. Have children wash their hands and then sit for snack time. Pray together before eating. Play quiet music while they eat. Use this time to clean up the remains of the opening activity and any wrapping paper left from opening the two presents.

4. Bible Learning Activities (20 minutes)

SAY: We're learning a Bible verse this week. Let's say it together: "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs" Psalm 100:1-2. (*Repeat two times.*) Let's learn a song about our verse. Ready?

*Learning Activity 1: Sing "Psalm 100"

This song is recorded on the *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Music CD. The hand motions will make the song more fun. These can be found in the Assembly & Music Guide.

*Learning Activity 2: Follow the Leader

Start off with the teacher leading the kids in a game of "Follow the Leader," and then allow some of the kids to be the leader. Remind the children that we worship when God speaks and we follow.

Here are some suggested actions for the follow the leader game:

- * Stick out your tongue
- * Jump!
- * Hop on one foot
- * Touch your Toes
- * Touch the ground
- * Reach to the Sky
- * Touch your nose
- * Tap your elbows

If a child completes the incorrect action they should sit down until the next round.

*Learning Activity 3: "Brother, Brother, David"

This game is played like "Duck, Duck, Goose." Have all children sit in a large circle. As the leader, you should walk around the circle gently tapping each child on the head saying, "Brother, Brother, Brother..." Choose one child and shout "David!" after you tap them on the head. The child should chase you around the circle back to the empty spot in the circle. Allow many different children to have a turn being "David."



5. Gross Motor Play (Indoor or Outdoor/35 minutes)

This is a time for your class to have some active free play indoors or out. Gather everyone together ten minutes before the end of this period for cleanup.

6. Craft Time (20 minutes)

Make a laughing face.

SAY: Today we have been learning about how God chooses surprising people, and we respond with laughter. Now, we're going to make faces with laughing mouths on them.

fig. 4a, 4b, 4c

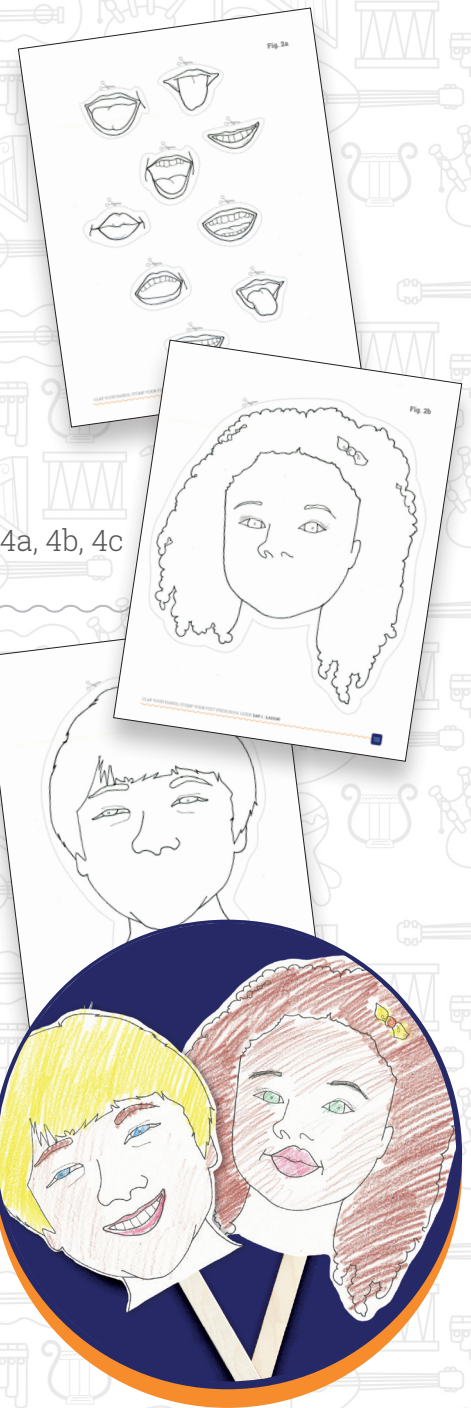
Have the children cut out the laughing mouths with safety scissors. If you are teaching toddlers or younger preschoolers, it will be important to precut as many of the laughing mouths for the children as possible before class time. Second, have the children color the face of a boy or a girl. Then, have them cut and paste the mouth of their choice on the face. Finally, ask them to write their name and work with them to write the following verse: "Our mouths are filled with laughter... The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy" (Psalm 126:2-3).

7. Closing Assembly or Circle (15 minutes)

If there is a closing assembly, line up and lead children back to the assembly room. Otherwise, bring the children back to the special spots where they sat during story time. When parents return for pickup it is preferable to have the kids calm and seated. This makes the transition to home easier because children would rather get up and move, something they get to do when their parents arrive for them. It will keep things peaceful and orderly if children are dismissed as their parents arrive as opposed to all the children getting up and running around when the first child leaves.

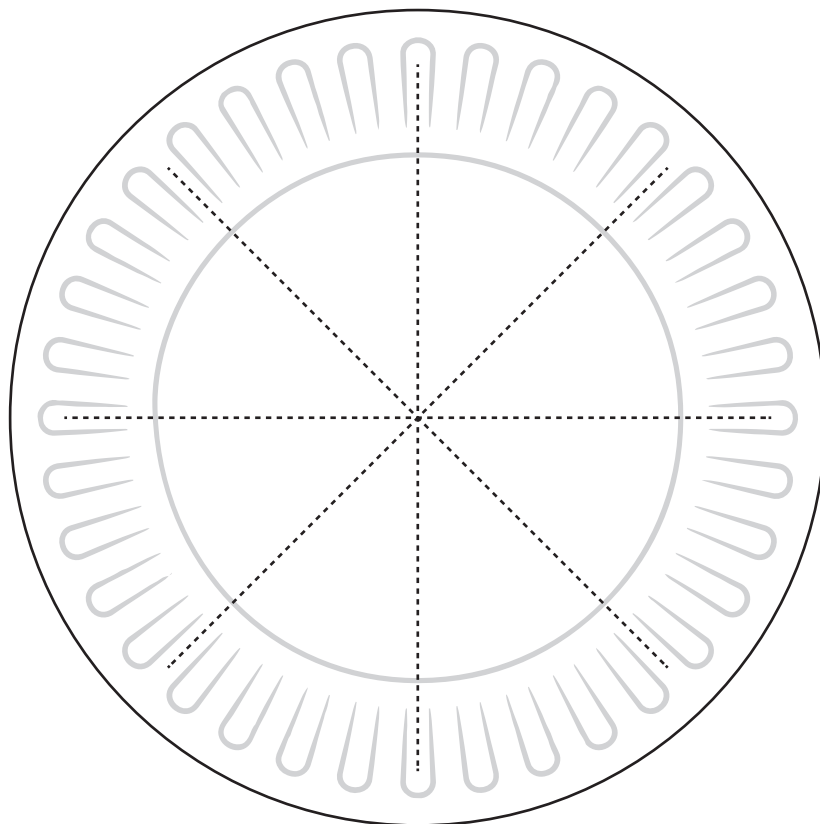
Options for this closing time:

- * Recap the story using the story illustration (Fig. 3).
- * Distribute David with sheep coloring page.
- * Sing through today's songs.
- * Review the memory passage.
- * Play a hide-and-go-seek game. Have a small gift bow.

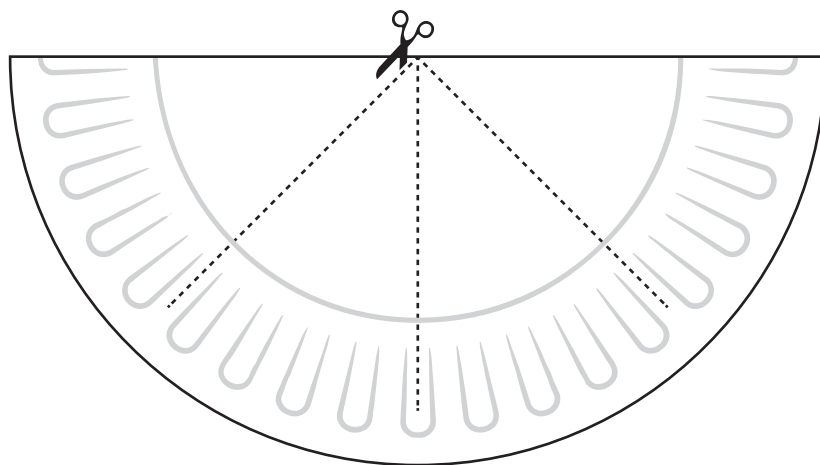


Call on one child to come and sit with their back to the rest of the group. Hand out the item to a child you chose and have them sit on it (or hide it however they choose). When it's hidden, have the child in the front of the group try to guess who is sitting on the item. When they guess correctly, have them return to their spot and have a new child come to be the guesser.

Fig. 1



draw cut marks on paper plate as shown



fold paper plate in half and cut along cut marks

Fig. 2



Fig. 3

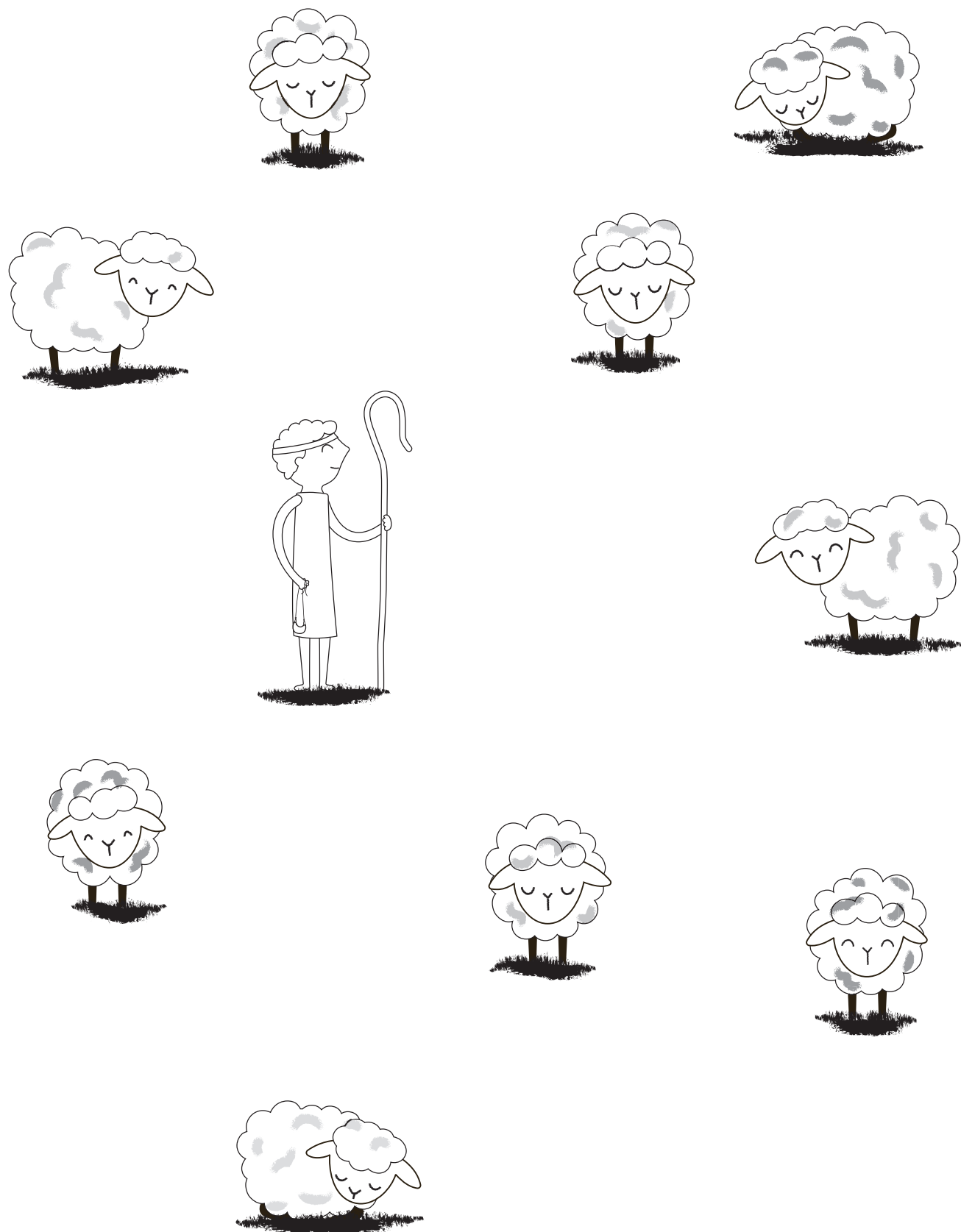


Fig. 4a

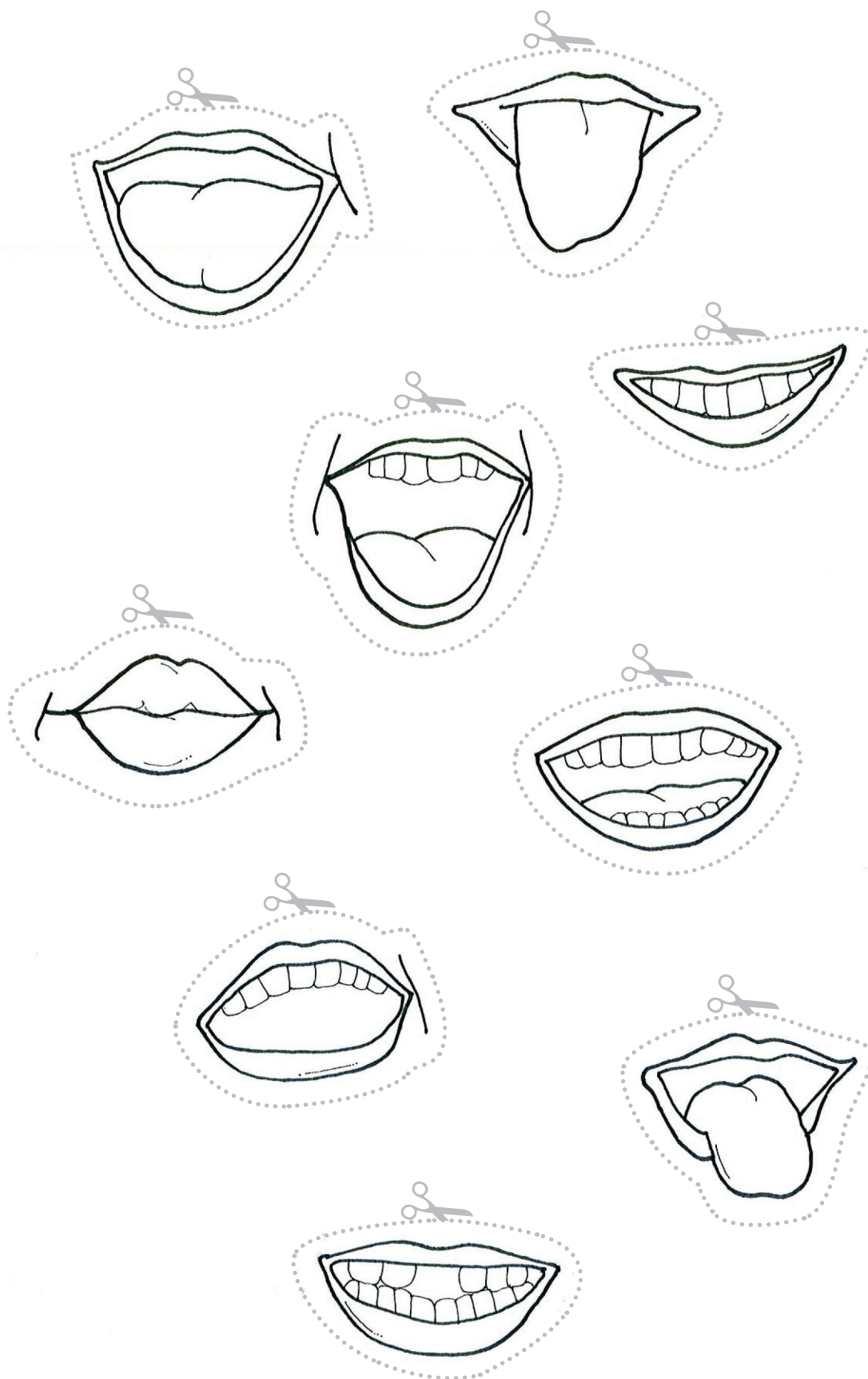


Fig. 4b

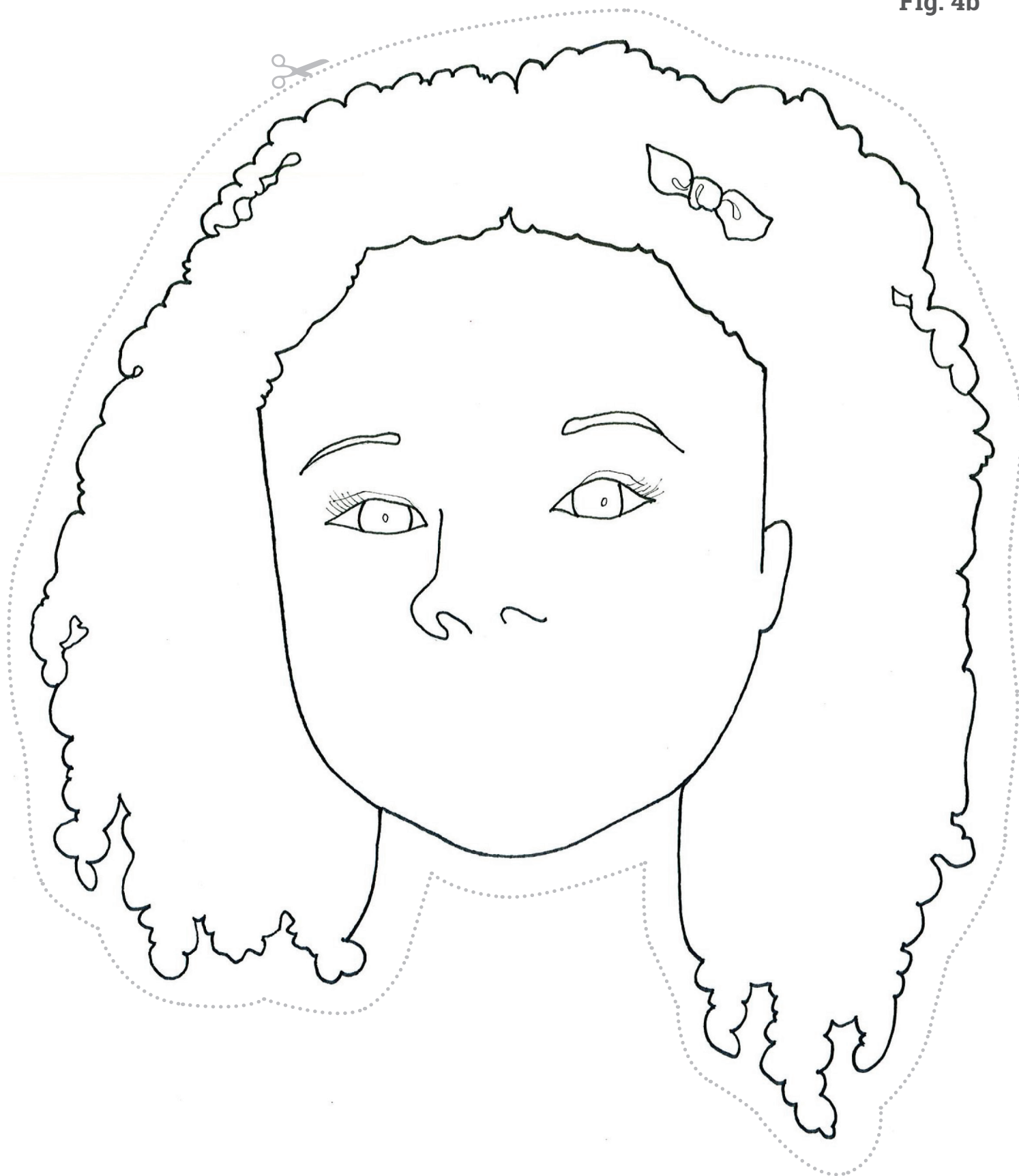
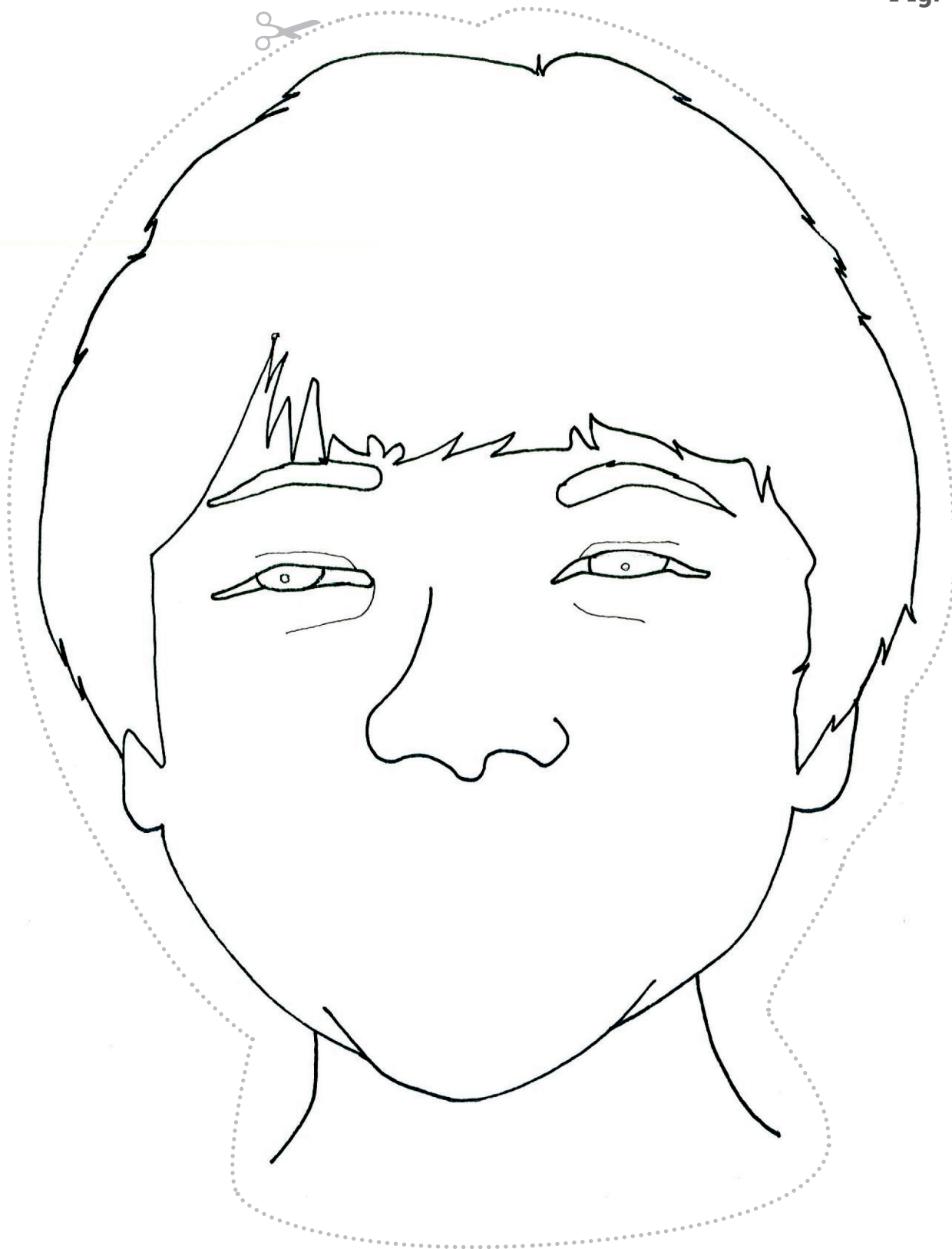


Fig. 4c



CLAP
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ELEMENTARY
BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

Jared Kennedy, Mandy Groce,
Tessa Janes, Kara Jenkins,
& Fletcher Lang



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Groce, Tessa Janes, Kara Jenkins, & Fletcher Lang

Introduction

"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. (Psalm 100:1–2)

Worship begins when God speaks and we respond. God says, "I have restored your fortunes" (Psalm 126:1–2). Then, we respond with laughter, because we know that we don't deserve it. God says, "I made you. You are mine. You are my people and the sheep of my pasture" (Psalm 100). Then, we respond by shouting for joy and giving him thanks. That's just how worship works. God shows himself to us. Then, we respond to his revelation with joy and praise.

Every time we lead kids in worship, we call kids to praise the Lord responsively—"Clap your hands! Sing out! Raise your hands! Shout Hallelujah!" One of the dangers inherent in teaching children to worship in this way is that we sometimes call them to do the work of responding without first showing them how God has spoken. If children don't first hear who God is and what he has done to save, our call to worship can become just another demand for performance. But if we tell kids the story of our Great King, they'll rejoice at the privilege of praising him. Jesus has come to earth to rescue his lost children. He is the King who has chosen, rescued, forgiven and befriended us. His love is better than life. It never fails. That's why we sing and shout.

That is the motivation behind the *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Vacation Bible School. We want to hear God speak about who he is and what he has done for us. Then, we want to call children to respond to God's goodness and greatness with truly *responsive* worship.

- ✱ Laugh! God chooses surprising people! (1 Samuel 16)
- ✱ Clap! God wins the battle! (1 Samuel 17).
- ✱ Sing! God is our faithful friend! (1 Samuel 20).
- ✱ Shout! God is with us! (2 Samuel 6).
- ✱ Give Thanks! God shows his kindness! (2 Samuel 9)

We want to tell children about the great love of our king and then call them to respond to him by making a joyful noise.



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Your Job Description

Your job is to lead the elementary-aged children in their daily Bible study. Feel free to adapt the material and make it your own. Before VBS week, please take the time to read through this entire curriculum. Pray now for the kids and families God will bring to VBS, that their hearts would be open to the gospel. Let your leaders know if you have any questions.

Sample Schedule

TIME	K	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5
9:00	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly
9:35	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games
10:10	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts	Snack/Music	Snack/Music
10:45	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts
11:20	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study
11:55	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing

General Bible Study Format

The Bible studies in this guide follow the HOOK-BOOK-LOOK* format:

- ✱ **HOOK—Grab their attention!** A HOOK activity is designed to introduce and overview the lesson. This is a preparation activity designed to engage the child's senses as well as introduce new vocabulary and concepts. This part of the lesson is intended to capture the attention of the children, to set the stage for God's Word. It answers the question, "Why do I need to know this?"
- ✱ **BOOK—This is where you school them.** This is intended to be an interactive time. The BOOK time speaks to the analytic learning style, and it answers the question, "What do I need to know?" The Bible story is the main focus of the lesson. Since learning about God through the Bible is our primary point, we've been painstaking about putting quality preparation into studying the Scripture passage and writing clear, interesting, and interactive stories. The truths of Scripture should be explained in a way the children will understand and enjoy. Each successive day will build on these stories, bringing increasingly profound truths to the children's attention, so don't feel pressured to communicate everything at once. Use visual aids to help keep the children's interest.
- ✱ **LOOK—Look at your heart. Look to Jesus.** The LOOK section works in two ways. First, we want our kids to look to Jesus—seeing Jesus at the heart and center of the Bible story we are teaching. Second, we want our kids to look at their hearts and connect the lesson to their lives. So, we have tried to include creative activities for helping children move from the Bible to their own hearts and lives. The LOOK section speaks to the pragmatic learning style, and it answers the questions, "How

does this truth work? How does it work out in my life?"

**For more information about learning styles and the HBLT method, see Lawrence O. Richards and Gary J. Bredfeldt, Creative Bible Teaching (Chicago: Moody Press, 1970, 1998), pp.151-165, 292-97.*

Supplies

Some supplies will be needed every day and do not appear on the supply list: Bibles for the class, crayons/markers, paper, whiteboard, and dry-erase markers.

Daily Supplies

Day 1: Laugh!

- * A plate of cooked spaghetti noodles and ice cream (or two foods that clearly don't belong together)
- * Basketball and a teddy bear (or sports equipment with any stuffed animal)
- * A buzzer from a board game

Day 2: Clap!

- * A military uniform or camouflage clothing
- * A train table or battlefield landscape drawn on a piece of poster board
- * Plastic army men (green and tan)
- * A larger male doll such as Barbie's Ken or a G. I. Joe figurine. It should be clearly larger than the plastic army men.
- * Slingshot
- * Five smooth stones
- * Paper crown

Day 3: Sing!

- * Rock star outfit (sunglasses, tight jeans, T-shirt, scarf, etc.)
- * 3 pieces of Poster board (with the mad lib activity prewritten on them)
- * Marker

Day 4: Shout!

- * Ark of the covenant visual.
- * Homemade Ark of the Covenant—a wooden or cardboard box spray painted gold with two angels on top facing one another. The ark should have a place on the sides so that it can be carried by poles. Inside, put pictures of the ten commandments, Aaron's rod, and manna.
- * A skateboard or wagon that can be pulled by a rope.
- * *Are You Close to God?* gospel tract

Day 5: Give Thanks!

- * Blindfold
- * Make an obstacle course with cones, a hula hoop, etc.
- * Construction paper and stickers

ELEMENTARY

DAY 1

LAUGH!

MAIN POINT:

Laugh! God chooses surprising people!

SCRIPTURE THEME FOR TODAY:

"But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'" (1 Samuel 16:7)

PSALM MEMORY FOR TODAY:

"Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The LORD has done great things for them.' The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." (Psalm 126:2–3)

TEACHERS:

Some things don't belong together—like a scoop of ice cream on top of spaghetti or a teddy bear on a basketball team. But God often chooses people who look like they don't belong to accomplish his sovereign purposes. When the shepherd boy David became king of Israel, it was just this kind of surprise. How do we respond to God's surprising choice? We can laugh with joy, because God chooses surprising people like you and me. Take this lesson, study it, and make it your own. Allow the truths of Scripture to sink into your heart. Know what you are saying and say it with confidence and excitement.



SUPPLIES

- ❖ A plate of cooked spaghetti noodles and ice cream (or two foods that clearly don't belong together)
- ❖ Basketball and a teddy bear (or sports equipment with any stuffed animal)
- ❖ A buzzer from a board game

Introduce the Theme

(2–3 minutes—*first day only*)

ASK: Does anybody know what this week's theme is? That's right, *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet*! Let's all do that. (Lead the kids in a rhythmic stomp-stomp-clap, stomp-stomp-clap, and chant "Clap-Your-Hands, Stomp-Your-Feet" to the beat.)

Now why is this our theme? It's because clapping and stomping are two of the things the Bible instructs us to do when we worship God. The Bible tells us that we should worship God in response to what he has done for us.

SAY: This week, we're going to be learning all about how we worship God. We worship God because *he is great. He has done great things.* This week we're going to learn how to worship God by laughing, clapping, singing, shouting, and giving thanks.

While we do that, we're going to be learning about what God did in the life of David. The Bible tells us that David was a man after God's own heart. It would be easy to say that David was one of the greatest worshippers of God of all time. He danced, wrote songs, sang, shouted, gave thanks – he did all of it! Let's start learning about him today.

HOOK Grab their attention!

(2–3 minutes)

Have a table set in the teaching area with the props prepared to use as object lessons.

SAY: There are some things that DO NOT belong together. I'm going to show you some pairs of things that work on their own, but it's hard to see how they'd ever go together.

ASK: First, who likes spaghetti? *Hold up the plate of spaghetti and wait for response. You may consider asking what kinds of things the kids like to put on spaghetti—like meatballs or Parmesan cheese.* Now, who likes to put ice cream on their spaghetti? *Take the plate of cooked*



spaghetti noodles and put some ice cream on top. This should get the kids involved and laughing.

ASK: Second, who likes basketball? *Hold up a basketball and wait for response from the kids. You may consider asking about their favorite team.* Now, who would like to have a teddy bear on their basketball team? *Pass a basketball to the teddy bear on the table so that it knocks him over. The kids should be laughing some more.*

SAY: Today we're going to hear a story about David. David was the youngest boy of a big family. He was a shepherd too. He was the last person that anyone would have expected to become a king. Like spaghetti and ice cream or basketball and our teddy bear, David and being king just didn't go together... BUT God chose David to be king. Let's repeat today's main point together.

Main Point: *Laugh!* (Laugh out loud) God chooses surprising people.

BOOK TIME

This is where you school them!

(10 minutes)

Tell the story below. Try to put it to memory so that you don't have to read it. If the children are younger, it may be helpful to use the visuals from the preschool lessons or abridge the story in order to keep their attention. **Essential plot points are highlighted to aid in summarizing.**

Tell the Story: Long ago, there was a man named Samuel. Everyone say *Samuel*. (Wait for the kids to respond.) **Samuel was a man of God. God used prophets like Samuel to anoint new kings for God's people, Israel.** God would tell the prophet who should be king, and then the prophet would go and anoint him as king.

The first man Samuel anointed king was named Saul. Everyone say *Saul*. (Wait for the kids to respond.) **Saul was everything you would think a king should be. He was bigger and taller than everyone else.** He was good-looking and most people liked him. At first, he seemed like he was going to be a great king. He listened to God, and he defeated Israel's enemies. **But then Saul started doing things that were not pleasing to God. He disobeyed God's commands.** He did evil things, and he led God's



people to do evil as well. Israel needed a new king.

One day, God told Samuel, “I have rejected Saul as king. Go to the house of a man named Jesse in Bethlehem. I want to make one of Jesse’s sons the king instead of Saul.” Samuel was afraid. Samuel knew King Saul would kill him if the king heard he had anointed one of Jesse’s sons. But even though he was afraid, Samuel obeyed. He went because God told him to go.

So, Samuel went on a journey to the town of Bethlehem. Everyone say *Bethlehem*. (Wait for the kids to respond.) This is where Jesse and all his sons lived.

When Samuel arrived at Jesse’s house, he noticed one of Jesse’s sons, Eliab. Eliab was tall and impressive. He looked the way a king should look! So, Samuel thought, “This must be him! This must be the one God has chosen to be the next king!” Let’s read what happened next from the Bible.

Read 1 Samuel 16:7 from your Bible (or have a child read): “But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’”

This is amazing! God is saying that it’s not our appearance that matters. **God doesn’t see the same things people see. God chooses differently than people choose.** Let’s repeat our main point...

Main Point: *Laugh!* (Laugh out loud) God chooses surprising people.

Eliab was not the one chosen by God to be king, but Jesse had lots of sons, so he just started to bring them out to meet Samuel. [Line the VBS volunteers up in the classroom in the order of their height.] Jesse brought out his second son, and he was rejected [Sound the buzzer]. Then his third son was brought out, rejected [buzzer]. Fourth son, rejected [buzzer! The kids should be roaring with laughter at this point]. Fifth son, rejected [buzzer!]. Sixth son, rejected [buzzer!]. Seventh son, rejected [buzzer!]. [Thank the workers and have them sit back down with the kids.]

Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these. Are these all the sons you have?” Jesse answered, “There is still the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him, I will not even sit down until he gets here.”



So, Jesse went and got the youngest son out of the field with the sheep. The youngest son was named David. Jesse may have said something like, "David, come in here. There's a guy in here who wants to talk to you." David had no idea that Samuel was there looking to find a new king. **David was not expecting to become a king this day, but, when he came in, Samuel knew he was the one. Samuel took David and he anointed him as king.** And then the Bible says the Spirit of God came upon him. Nobody thought David would be king. He wasn't particularly impressive. He wasn't even the first pick in his own family! But God chose David. Let's repeat the main point again...

Main Point: *Laugh!* (Laugh out loud) God chooses surprising people.

LOOK

Look at your heart. Look to Jesus!

(15 minutes)

DO: *Have the kids draw a picture or write a brief story about a time when they were surprised. Were they surprised by something funny or something scary? Have each child share their picture/story with the class. Or, for large classes, have each child share their picture/story with a smaller group of four or five classmates. After everyone has had a chance to share, gather the group back together.*

SAY: Did you know that Jesus is a surprising choice? David was Jesus's great, great, far-off grandfather. And Jesus was just as surprising as David. He came from a small town in the middle of nowhere. Do you remember the name of that town? It was Bethlehem—the same as David. Jesus's family wasn't rich. No one would have chosen Jesus to be our king. Jesus wasn't particularly good looking. The prophet Isaiah says, "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him" (Is. 53:2b). But he is our king! God has chosen to save us through HIM!

ASK: Do you ever feel like you will never be good enough? Like you will never be good at sports? Like you will never be pretty enough? Like you are unlovable? *Even if we are adored and loved by friends or parents, part of being human in a broken world is feeling lonely and forgotten sometimes. And if you've ever felt this way, I have bad*



news for you. It's worse than you think. We're not just broken and lonely. We're sinners too, and we deserve God's punishment for our sin. Thank God he chooses to save surprising, sinful people like you and me through Jesus.

ASK: How can we respond in worship? *We don't have to be pretty or handsome or strong to respond to God. Because God graciously chooses the people we'd least expect, we can simply laugh with joy and give thanks with a heart of trust.*

The psalm for today says it this way:

Psalm 126:2–3: “Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy... The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”

Main Point: *Laugh!* (Laugh out loud) God chooses surprising people.

Pray with the children to end your teaching time.



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ELEMENTARY
CRAFTS GUIDE

Jared Kennedy, Mandy Groce,
Tessa Janes, Kara Jenkins,
& Fletcher Lang

Introduction

"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. (Psalm 100:1–2)

Worship begins when God speaks and we respond. God says, "I have restored your fortunes" (Psalm 126:1–2). Then, we respond with laughter, because we know that we don't deserve it. God says, "I made you. You are mine. You are my people and the sheep of my pasture" (Psalm 100). Then, we respond by shouting for joy and giving him thanks That's just how worship works. God shows himself to us. Then, we respond to his revelation with joy and praise.

Every time we lead kids in worship, we call kids to praise the Lord responsively—"Clap your hands! Sing out! Raise your hands! Shout Hallelujah!" One of the dangers inherent in teaching children to worship in this way is that we sometimes call them to do the work of responding without first showing them how God has spoken. If children don't first hear who God is and what he has done to save, our call to worship can become just another demand for performance. But if we tell kids the story of our Great King, they'll rejoice at the privilege of praising him. Jesus has come to earth to rescue his lost children. He is the King who has chosen, rescued, forgiven and befriended us. His love is better than life. It never fails. That's why we sing and shout.

That is the motivation behind the *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Vacation Bible School. We want to hear God speak about who he is and what he has done for us. Then, we want to call children to respond to God's goodness and greatness with truly *responsive* worship.

- ✱ Laugh! God chooses surprising people! (1 Samuel 16)
- ✱ Clap! God wins the battle! (1 Samuel 17).
- ✱ Sing! God is our faithful friend! (1 Samuel 20).
- ✱ Shout! God is with us! (2 Samuel 6).
- ✱ Give Thanks! God shows his kindness! (2 Samuel 9)

We want to tell children about the great love of our king and then call them to respond to him by making a joyful noise.



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Your Job Description

Your job is to lead each kindergarten and elementary rotation in arts/crafts shop at your assigned area. Kids will travel to your station.

Sample Schedule

TIME	K	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5
9:00	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly
9:35	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games
10:10	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts	Snack/Music	Snack/Music
10:45	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts
11:20	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study
11:55	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing

Supplies

Have on hand a generous supply of art materials, including crayons, markers, glue, tape, and scissors.

Day 1: Laugh! God chooses surprising people (1 Samuel 16)

- * Sturdy plastic plates (two for each child)
- * Streamers
- * Decorations including stickers, foam stickers, markers
- * Beans, colorful pom-poms, and small colorful beads
- * Hot glue gun (or regular glue—for attaching streamers to plates)
- * Hot glue sticks

Day 2: Clap! God wins the battle (1 Samuel 17).

- * 2 paint stirrer sticks per child
- * Acrylic paint
- * Paintbrushes
- * Tablecloths

Day 3: Sing! God is our faithful friend (1 Samuel 20).

- * Pipe cleaners (two for each child)
- * Jingle bells of various sizes.
- * Scissors (one pair for each teacher)
- * Small blank circle stickers (optional)

Day 4: Shout! God is with us (2 Samuel 6).

- * Small brown paper bags (one for each child)
- * Small 8" dowels (one for each child)
- * Dried Beans
- * Markers or Paint
- * Paintbrushes
- * Colored yarn

Day 5: Give Thanks! God shows his kindness (2 Samuel 9)

- * Large craft sticks (or tongue depressors; two per child)
- * Strips of paper (two per child) that are the same width and length as the tongue depressor/craft stick.
- * Wide rubber bands (like those used to bind vegetables; three per child)
- * Crayons and stickers (optional)

DAY 1: LAUGH!

God chooses surprising people



MAIN POINT: **Laugh!** God chooses surprising people!

SCRIPTURE THEME FOR TODAY: 'But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.' (1 Samuel 16:7)

PSALM MEMORY FOR TODAY: "Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.' (Psalm 126:2–3)

SCRIPTURE MEMORY FOR THE WEEK: "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." (Psalm 100:1–2)

LESSON AIM: Today, we are learning how we respond to God with laughter and joy, because he chooses surprising people.

BEAN AND BEAD TAMBOURINE

Here's what you'll need...

- * Sturdy plastic plates (two for each child)
- * Streamers
- * Decorations including stickers, foam stickers, markers
- * Beans, colorful pom-poms, and small colorful beads
- * Hot glue gun
- * Hot glue sticks

Here's how you make it...

1. Before class, staple together two clear plastic plates for each child. Staple around the edges, and be sure to leave a hole at the top.
2. Children should fill their plate tambourines with beans, beads, and colored pom-poms.
3. Then, each child should decorate the outside of their plates with stickers and streamers.
4. Encourage the kids to use their bean tambourine during music time.



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Jared Kennedy, Mandy Groce,
Tessa Janes, Kara Jenkins,
& Fletcher Lang

ELEMENTARY GAMES
AND SNACKS GUIDE



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Introduction

"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. (Psalm 100:1–2)

Worship begins when God speaks and we respond. God says, "I have restored your fortunes" (Psalm 126:1–2). Then, we respond with laughter, because we know that we don't deserve it. God says, "I made you. You are mine. You are my people and the sheep of my pasture" (Psalm 100). Then, we respond by shouting for joy and giving him thanks. That's just how worship works. God shows himself to us. Then, we respond to his revelation with joy and praise.

Every time we lead kids in worship, we call kids to praise the Lord responsively—"Clap your hands! Sing out! Raise your hands! Shout Hallelujah!" One of the dangers inherent in teaching children to worship in this way is that we sometimes call them to do the work of responding without first showing them how God has spoken. If children don't first hear who God is and what he has done to save, our call to worship can become just another demand for performance. But if we tell kids the story of our Great King, they'll rejoice at the privilege of praising him. Jesus has come to earth to rescue his lost children. He is the King who has chosen, rescued, forgiven and befriended us. His love is better than life. It never fails. That's why we sing and shout.

That is the motivation behind the *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Vacation Bible School. We want to hear God speak about who he is and what he has done for us. Then, we want to call children to respond to God's goodness and greatness with truly responsive worship.

- ✱ Laugh! God chooses surprising people! (1 Samuel 16)
- ✱ Clap! God wins the battle! (1 Samuel 17).
- ✱ Sing! God is our faithful friend! (1 Samuel 20).
- ✱ Shout! God is with us! (2 Samuel 6).
- ✱ Give Thanks! God shows his kindness! (2 Samuel 9)

We want to tell children about the great love of our king and then call them to respond to him by making a joyful noise.



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Your Job Description

Game Leaders: Your job is to lead each elementary and kindergarten rotation in games.

Snack Leaders: Your job is to prepare and serve snacks to all children attending VBS. Memory work and review questions are provided in this guide to review with the children during snack time.

Sample Schedule

TIME	K	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5
9:00	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly
9:35	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games
10:10	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts	Snack/Music	Snack/Music
10:45	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts
11:20	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study
11:55	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing

Supplies

Day 1: Laugh! God chooses surprising people (1 Samuel 16)

- ✱ As much weird and wacky clothing that you can find from a consignment store. If you can, include oversized clown glasses, oversized shoes, hats, and jewelry.

Day 2: Clap! God wins the battle (1 Samuel 17).

- ✱ Masking tape
- ✱ An assortment of cardboard boxes
- ✱ Paper lanterns decorated like soldiers
- ✱ A cardboard cutout of the giant Goliath
- ✱ Water balloon launchers
- ✱ Small dodgeballs (in assorted colors)

Day 3: Sing! God is our faithful friend (1 Samuel 20).

- * As much weird and wacky clothing that you can find from a consignment store. Use the same clothes from the day 1 game.
- * A big trash bag
- * An audio player to play music

Day 4: Shout! God is with us (2 Samuel 6).

- * An audio player to play music
- * A beanbag
- * Large dodgeballs (at least two)
- * Jump ropes (at least four)
- * Poles (at least four)
- * traffic cones (optional)

Day 5: Give Thanks! God shows his kindness (2 Samuel 9)

- * Blindfold
- * Two large tarps

DAY 1: LAUGH!

God chooses surprising people



MAIN POINT: Laugh! God chooses surprising people!

SCRIPTURE THEME FOR TODAY: “But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

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SCRIPTURE MEMORY FOR THE WEEK: “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.” (Psalm 100:1–2)

GAMES FOR KINDERGARTEN

THE KING SAYS

Start off with the teacher leading the kids in a game of “The king says,” which is played just like “Simon Says”: the leader calls out a series of actions. If the words “The king says” precedes the action, the children should follow the action. If the words “The king says” do not precede the action, the children should do nothing. If the participant completes the incorrect action or moves when the leader doesn’t say “the king says” before the action, they should sit down until the next round.

If there’s time for a second game, allow the winning child to be the leader.

Remind the children how David went on to become a great leader, even though he was younger and smaller than some of his brothers. You can also remind the children how worship involves following. God speaks (as our king), and we respond to him in worship.

Some ideas for the game:

- * Stick out your tongue
- * Jump!
- * Hop on one foot
- * Touch your toes
- * Touch the ground
- * Reach to the Sky
- * Touch your nose
- * Tap your elbow

BROTHER, BROTHER, DAVID

This game should be played just like “Duck, Duck, Goose.” Have all children sit in a large circle. As the leader you should walk around the circle gently tapping each child on the head while saying, “Brother, Brother, David!!” When you pick “David,” the child should chase you back to the empty spot. Allow many different children to have a turn being “David.”

GAMES FOR GRADE SCHOOL

FIND THE MATCH!

Divide the group into 2 teams. Have each team remove their shoes and put them in a giant pile in the middle of the room. The leader should move to the pile and mix the shoes up even more! This makes it more difficult to find their shoes. When the leader shouts, “GO!” the kids should run to the middle of the room and find their shoes and place them on their feet. The team that finishes first is the winner. Remind the children about how Samuel had to look among all of Jesse’s sons to find the one whom God had chosen

DRESS-UP RELAY

Supplies needed: As much weird and wacky clothing that you can find from a consignment store. If you can, include oversized clown glasses, oversized shoes, hats, and jewelry.

Leader should provide a large pile of dress-up clothes. Include as much weird and wacky clothing that you can find such as oversized clown glasses, oversized shoes, hats, and jewelry. One person from each team stands across from their team. Then, each teammate runs across with an item of clothing and helps them dress up. Each relay runner can only put one item on their teammate during each run. The team to add all of the clothes in the pile first is the winner. By the end of the game, the chosen teammates will look funny in all the crazy clothes. Remind them we can laugh, because God chooses surprising people.

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Jared Kennedy, Mandy Groce,
Tessa Janes, Kara Jenkins,
& Fletcher Lang

ASSEMBLY-MUSIC-DRAMA
GUIDE



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Introduction

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Every time we lead kids in worship, we call kids to praise the Lord responsively—"Clap your hands! Sing out! Raise your hands! Shout Hallelujah!" One of the dangers inherent in teaching children to worship in this way is that we sometimes call them to do the work of responding without first showing them how God has spoken. If children don't first hear who God is and what he has done to save, our call to worship can become just another demand for performance. But if we tell kids the story of our Great King, they'll rejoice at the privilege of praising him. Jesus has come to earth to rescue his lost children. He is the King who has chosen, rescued, forgiven and befriended us. His love is better than life. It never fails. That's why we sing and shout.

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- ✱ Laugh! God chooses surprising people! (1 Samuel 16)
- ✱ Clap! God wins the battle! (1 Samuel 17)
- ✱ Sing! God is our faithful friend! (1 Samuel 20)
- ✱ Shout! God is with us! (2 Samuel 6)
- ✱ Give Thanks! God shows his kindness! (2 Samuel 9)

We want to tell children about the great love of our King and then call them to respond to him by making a joyful noise.



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Your Job Description

Worship Team: As part of the worship team, your job is to lead in worship during VBS. This may include leading music during each day's opening and closing assemblies, leading music incorporated into the preschool and elementary schedule, and leading worship at a closing ceremony.

Please take time to review this entire book. It contains the opening and closing assembly scripts for each day, and chord charts/lead sheets for all of the VBS music. Songs are recorded on the *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* CD. The lead sheets include hand motions for each song. Be sure to become familiar with these materials before your first rehearsal. Be prepared to introduce the project for which an offering will be collected each day.

Also, be praying now for the kids and families God will be bringing to your church. Pray for open doors for the gospel, and let your leaders know if you have any questions.

Drama Team: As part of the drama team your job is to participate in some aspect of the dramas that accompany each day's opening assembly during VBS. This may include acting, preparing scenery, or gathering costumes and props. The dramas are very simple and have only one or two actors. Scenery used for skits can double as stage decorations throughout the VBS week. More details appear later in this manual.

DAY 1: LAUGH!

God chooses surprising people



OPENING ASSEMBLY

MAIN POINT

Laugh! God chooses surprising people!

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 16:7

SONG LIST *(Lead sheets/Chord charts are at the back of this manual)*

1. "I Lift My Hands"
2. "Psalm 100"
3. "Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet"

Emcee:

Hello everyone! Today marks the beginning of our Vacation Bible School adventure! My name is [your name], and this is [introduce worship leader]. Over the next few days, we are going to learn more about what it means to worship God. Let's start right now by learning this simple truth. Repeat after me. *(Say...)* Worship happens *(allow the kids to repeat after you phrase by phrase)* when God speaks *(kids repeat)* and we respond *(kids repeat; repeat it a couple of times until the kids have learned it)*

Worship Leader:

So, this week, we're talking about worshiping God. He is our King. This week, we will enter the gates of God's love, and we'll see how he calls all people to worship him. Now, we might think that God wants only really sophisticated and mannerly people to worship him. But today we're learning something quite surprising.

That's not who God chooses. We may be the youngest or the smallest or the weakest, but God chooses the weak things of this world to do his most important work. In fact, the Bible tells us that even when we fail and fall down, God comes to his children and holds them in his arms. Let's stand and sing about it together.

SONG: "I Lift My Hands"

DRAMA FOR DAY 1 *(See drama scripts at the back of this manual)*

Emcee: I'm so glad we can laugh together! We can laugh, because God chooses surprising people.

Worship Leader: I'm also glad that God has given us friends to go with us on our worshiping adventure. Coming along with us on our adventure this week is our praise band of worshipful musicians. *(Have a praiseworthy band name ready, and then introduce the band members one by one.)* Now that we've met our band, let's stand and sing another song with them. This song is based on our memory passage for the week, Psalm 100:1-2.

SONG: "Psalm 100"

Emcee: Today, we're learning that we can laugh, because God chooses surprising people. Let me hear your best belly laugh! *(Stick out your tummy and put your hands on top and laugh as loudly as you can. Encourage the kids to do this too.)*

If God chooses surprising people, then we should love everyone... even people who are different from us. One of the ways we can show God's love is by giving to his mission. This week, you will have an opportunity to give.

Missions Offering Video, Testimony, or Explanation

Worship Leader: Now let's sing one final worship song.

SONG: "Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet"

Emcee: *Introduce the staff member who will be praying to close the assembly.*

Staff Member: *(Suggested prayer)* Father, thank you for choosing the small things instead of the tall things. Thank you for choosing the weak things instead of the strong things. Thank you for choosing us. Help us laugh at your surprising ways. In Jesus's name, Amen.

Emcee: *Dismiss the classes one by one. Today, encourage them to place their hands on the belly and pretend to laugh as they leave.*

CLOSING ASSEMBLY

SONG LIST *(Lead sheets/Chord charts are at the back of this manual)*

1. "I Lift My Hands"
2. "Psalm 100"
3. "Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet"

Emcee: Welcome back! Did you all have a laugh-filled first day today at VBS? *(Wait for a response.)* Can you tell me why we can laugh? *(Wait for a response.)* That's right. Today we learned that we can laugh, because God chooses surprising people. We heard a story from the Bible about how God sent Samuel to anoint David even though he was the youngest and the smallest of all his brothers.

Worship Leader: Worship happens when we respond to what God says to us. So let's stand and lift our hands to God in worship.

SONG: "I Lift My Hands"

Emcee: God's choices are often surprising to us, because we don't always understand his ways. But we can trust that he is always doing great things even in weakness and suffering, and we can always praise him. Let's recite our memory verse for the week together.

(On screen) Psalm 100:1–2 "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; Come before him with joyful songs."

Worship Leader: Now let's sing the song based on our memory verse for the week, Psalm 100.

SONG: "Psalm 100"

Emcee: Girls and boys, thank you so much for a great day at VBS! Be sure to come back and learn more tomorrow. Let's stand and clap our hands and stomp our feet together!

SONG: "Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet"

Emcee: *Dismiss with prayer that everyone will come back safely tomorrow. Have kids remain sitting with their classes as parents come and pick them up. Be sure to ask workers who are not assigned to a class to stand at their assigned exit doors to check tags as kids leave.*

DRAMA OVERVIEW



CAST

Narrator Nathan: His job is to tell the daily Bible story in partnership with the Bumbling Bible Teacher. He humbly tells the story and brings gentle correction to his teaching partner.

Bill the Bumbling Bible Teacher: While his costume and character change daily, his personality does not. He is a confident young man and plays the part of a character from each day's Bible story with passion... and the slightest bit of arrogance. It's a pride that's out of step with his ability. He's bad at Bible names and facts, but he doesn't hesitate to correct the narrator even though that's not his job. Bill starts out the week fairly arrogant and excited about his role, but he quickly has egg on his face. By the end of the week he's learned humility and his need for the narrator's help.

Kids: These skits involve a lot of audience participation. The kids don't need to practice, but you'll need their help to play along.

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prophet outfit (with a robe, a rope belt, an authentic shawl, and a scraggly beard) • A small bottle of oil for anointing • A superhero Halloween costume with foam muscles (to fit a third or fourth grade boy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic armor (must include a sword, spear, shield). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A harmonica 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A band uniform (<i>You may consider asking a high-school age volunteer to wear their band uniform and join Bill on stage today.</i>) • Bucket • Drum stick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fancy outfit (such as a tuxedo with a bow tie and sequined vest) • A podium • (optional) a spotlight

DRAMA DAY 1

LAUGH!



PROPS/MATERIALS

Prophet outfit (with a robe, a rope belt, an authentic shawl, and a scraggly beard), a small bottle of oil for anointing, superhero Halloween costume with foam muscles (for a third or fourth grade boy).

PREPARATIONS

Before the opening assembly, Bible Teacher should prearrange with one third or fourth grade boy to dress up in the superhero costume with foam muscles.

Narrator: *(Reading)* Today, we're going to hear a story about how God sent Samuel to find a new king for God's people, Israel.

(Bible Teacher enters stage right in a robe with a rope belt. He's wearing an authentic shawl and a scraggly beard.)

Bible Teacher: *(as Samuel):* God has sent me here to anoint a young man as the new king. And by "to anoint," I mean to rub oil on the top of his head and say, "You are the new king! The anointed one!"

Narrator: Okay, okay, well, it still seems gross to me, BUT I have some young men right here!

(The Narrator should go down into the gathering of kids and choose a tall fifth grade boy as a volunteer.)

Narrator: Okay, I have a very tall young man here. He's in fifth grade, I believe. What's your name, young man? *(The boy will answer.)* Great, thanks for volunteering [boy's name]. In today's story, your name will be EEE-LEE-AB *(Narrator should look at the script and say the name slowly and carefully).*

Bible Teacher *(as Samuel):* Yes, yes, "Eel-with-great-abs." I know him (smugly but clearly confused). The Bible says that he was very tall and handsome. (Now very animated.) I know it. He must be the one! He must be the new king!

Narrator: Uhhh.... No.

Bible Teacher *(as Samuel):* *(Stops his excitement abruptly)* What?

Narrator: That's not what the script says.

Bible Teacher *(as Samuel):* It's not?

Narrator: No, let me read it for you. *(Pulls out his skit again)*. It says right here: "But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider Eliab's appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'"

Bible Teacher *(as Samuel)*: Oh. *(Pause.)* Well, if God hasn't chosen Eel-with-great-abs, who did he choose? I bet I can find the right boy. *(Looks around carefully and then identifies the boy wearing the superhero costume.)* Look at this young man. *(Smugly again)* So muscular and strong. *(Now very animated to the point of jumping up and down!)* He must be the one. He must be the one! He must be the new king!

Narrator: Ummm.... No.

Bible Teacher *(as Samuel)*: *(Stops his excitement abruptly)* What?

Narrator: That's not what the script says.

Bible Teacher *(as Samuel)*: *(Aghast.)* Not him either?

Narrator: The script says, "One by one, God rejected each one of Jesse's sons. Then Samuel asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?'"

Bible Teacher *(as Samuel)*: *(Whispers to the narrator.)* Don't take my line. *(Then in a smug acting voice...)* Are these all the sons you have, Jesse?

Narrator: Jesse answered, "No. There is still one son out in the field." So, they sent for the smallest and youngest of all the brothers—little David. Then God told Samuel, "Anoint him. He's the one." No one expected it. God's choice was so surprising. Praise God for his surprising choice!

(Narrator and Bible Teacher take a bow.)

Narrator and Bible Teacher: We'll be back to tell you more about David tomorrow. Bye now! *(Run off stage. To add a little laughter, consider having Bible Teacher trip over his robe or beard.)*

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Jared Kennedy, Mandy Groce,
Tessa Janes, Kara Jenkins,
& Fletcher Lang

DIRECTOR'S GUIDE



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WELCOME TO THE **Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet** VBS DIRECTOR'S GUIDE

As director of *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* VBS, you get to lead the way in this celebration of God's love and greatness. Take some time to read through this director's guide and become familiar with all the elements of this curriculum. You'll be excited to share the vision with your team!

On the DVD-ROM, in addition to this Director's Guide, you will find:

- ✱ an Assembly—Music—Drama Guide that contains all assembly and drama scripts and music;
- ✱ a Preschool Classroom Guide designed for the leaders of the self-contained preschool class;
- ✱ Elementary (K–5th grade) guides for Bible study, crafts, games, and snacks rotation leaders;
- ✱ PowerPoint files with song lyrics
- ✱ PowerPoint presentation of *Are You Close to God?* evangelistic booklet; and
- ✱ customizable posters, Facebook banners, and bulletin inserts; volunteer recruitment and preregistration forms; and clip art.

Other materials in your Starter Kit include:

- ✱ *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* CD with five songs. (Lead sheets, chord charts, and hand motions can be found in the Assembly—Music—Drama Leader Guide.)
- ✱ One *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* silicone wristband (A great way to reward memory work. Order more ahead of time. Sold separately in packs of ten.)
- ✱ One *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* iron-on transfer (Order more ahead of time and distribute at VBS registration for participants to iron on to their own T-shirts. Sold separately in packs of ten.)
- ✱ Online access to music videos for each song

Additional copies of the above can be purchased separately at www.newgrowthpress.com or (tel.) 336-378-7775.



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Introduction

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Worship begins when God speaks and we respond. God says, "I have restored your fortunes" (Psalm 126:1–2). Then, we respond with laughter, because we know that we don't deserve it. God says, "I made you. You are mine. You are my people and the sheep of my pasture" (Psalm 100). Then, we respond by shouting for joy and giving him thanks. That's just how worship works. God shows himself to us. Then, we respond to his revelation with joy and praise.

Every time we lead kids in worship, we call kids to praise the Lord responsively—"Clap your hands! Sing out! Raise your hands! Shout Hallelujah!" One of the dangers inherent in teaching children to worship in this way is that we sometimes call them to do the work of responding without first showing them how God has spoken. If children don't first hear who God is and what he has done to save, our call to worship can become just another demand for performance. But if we tell kids the story of our Great King, they'll rejoice at the privilege of praising him. Jesus has come to earth to rescue his lost children. He is the King who has chosen, rescued, forgiven and befriended us. His love is better than life. It never fails. That's why we sing and shout.

That is the motivation behind the *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Vacation Bible School. We want to hear God speak about who he is and what he has done for us. Then, we want to call children to respond to God's goodness and greatness with truly *responsive* worship.

- ✱ Laugh! God chooses surprising people! (1 Samuel 16)
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- ✱ Sing! God is our faithful friend! (1 Samuel 20).
- ✱ Shout! God is with us! (2 Samuel 6).
- ✱ Give Thanks! God shows his kindness! (2 Samuel 9)

We want to tell children about the great love of our king and then call them to respond to him by making a joyful noise.



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Your Job Description

Your job is to plan and shepherd the Vacation Bible School program. This involves recruiting, training, and motivating teams who will share Jesus with children through Bible study, music, drama, crafts, big games, and snacks during the Bible School week.

Please take time to read through this director's manual. It is your step-by-step guide for planning your Vacation Bible School. As you are working through this guide, begin praying for the leaders and teams under your care and supervision. Begin praying now for the kids and families God will bring to your church! Pray for open doors to share the gospel, and pray that the Holy Spirit will prepare hearts to receive the good news.

Sample Preschool Schedule and Provided Resources

In the curriculum set you have purchased, you will find five preschool lessons. These lessons are designed for use in self-contained preschool classrooms for ages 3-4. They can follow the following sample schedule:

TIME	LENGTH OF TIME (MIN)	PRESCHOOLERS
9:00–9:35	35	Opening Assembly
9:35–9:50	15	Greeting/Tactile Activity
9:50–10:10	20	Opening Circle/Story Time
10:10–10:30	20	Snack
10:30–10:50	20	Bible Learning Activities
10:50–11:25	35	Gross Motor Play (Indoor or Outdoor)
11:25–11:45	20	Craft Time
11:45–12:00	15	Closing Assembly or Closing Circle

If you wish for preschoolers to join the larger closing assembly with the elementary students, you can adjust this schedule accordingly.

While preschool materials are designed for a self-contained classroom, the VBS director may decide to designate rotating teams for snacks, crafts, and games who will bring corresponding supplies to the classroom and lead the activity they are responsible for, thus providing preschool teachers with a short break during the VBS day.

Sample Elementary Schedule and Provided Resources

In the curriculum set you have purchased, you will also find five elementary lessons. These lessons are designed for use with elementary groups (Children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade) that rotate among stations for the assembly, art/crafts, Bible study, games, and snack. See the sample schedule below:

TIME	K	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5
9:00	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly
9:35	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games
10:10	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts	Snack/Music	Snack/Music
10:45	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts
11:20	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study
11:55	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing

The Assembly Guide gives direction for a large group time that is designed for multiple age groups. In the sample schedule we've provided, parents of elementary age children will meet teachers to drop off and pick up their kids at the Assembly each day.

VBS Director's Planning Checklist

In the section below, you will find a step-by-step guide for planning your Vacation Bible School.

10 MONTHS BEFORE VBS

- ☐ Begin praying for the event. Ask God to prepare the hearts of church members, volunteers, and the children who will attend.
- ☐ Review the theme and Bible lessons for this year's VBS, and begin familiarizing yourself with this material. It is important for the director to be familiar with all materials since you will be casting the vision for this program and recruiting the teams that will implement it.
- ☐ Read through and review this entire checklist as well as all volunteer job descriptions.

- ☐ Choose the format you will use for this coming VBS. Will it be a backyard club or an on-site VBS at your church's facility? Will preschool classes be self-contained, or will you use some rotating teams? If you have done a VBS in a previous year, this is a good time to review your notes and consider any changes to the event.
- ☐ Schedule the event. Work with other church leaders to reserve the date and facilities you will need for VBS on your church calendar.
- ☐ Establish a budget. The budget should be specific to ensure you don't overspend. Consider what you will spend on the following categories:

• Promotion / Advertisements	\$ _____
• Music/Assembly Supplies	\$ _____
• Decorations / Sets and Props	\$ _____
• Preschool Lesson Supplies	\$ _____
• Elementary Bible Time Supplies	\$ _____
• Elementary Craft Supplies	\$ _____
• Big Games Supplies	\$ _____
• Snack Supplies	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

You will want to consider the supply lists we've included at the beginning of each of the area guidebooks. If money is tight, consider setting up a collection site for supply donations instead of purchasing everything that you will need.

6 MONTHS BEFORE VBS

- ☐ Continue praying for VBS.
- ☐ Recruit and confirm job descriptions with the key leadership team for the event.

Consider recruiting one person as the key leader for each of the following preparatory positions:

- ✦ **Volunteer Management**—Recruit volunteers and communicate all necessary information about assignments, job descriptions, and training meetings.
- ✦ **Promotion / Preregistration**—Promote VBS to the church and the community. Gather information from families for preregistration.
- ✦ **Decorations**—Decorate hallways, classrooms, and the stage in keeping with the VBS theme.

- + **Supply Gathering**—Gather supplies needed for VBS.

Consider recruiting one person as the key leader for each of the VBS week positions:

- + **Registration / Hospitality**—Lead teams that warmly welcome every family and quickly register each child.
- + **Assembly**—Lead teams and lead announcements from the stage during the opening and closing assemblies.
- + **Music**—Lead worship or worship teams during opening and closing assemblies each day, and optional, lead the music center rotation for elementary children, and lead the music times in preschool classrooms.
- + **Preschool Classroom Teachers**—The entire VBS morning is contained within the preschool classroom and any available outdoor play space. There is a bible story, lesson activities, crafts, snacks, and big games activities provided in the booklet. Depending on the setup of your VBS, designated leaders for the following areas may bring the craft materials and/or snacks to you.
- + **Preschool Crafts** (optional)—Lead each preschool classroom in craft activities at an assigned time on the schedule. Your team will travel to the classroom.
- + **Preschool Snacks** (optional)—Prepare and bring snacks to all preschool classrooms at an assigned time.
- + **Elementary Teachers**—Gather your class at the beginning of the VBS day at the assembly, lead them from station to station during the day, build relationships with the students in your group, and lead them in the daily Bible Study.
- + **Elementary Crafts**—Leads each elementary rotation in craft activities at an assigned classroom. Kids will travel to your station.
- + **Elementary Big Games**—Lead each elementary rotation in big games at an assigned area. Kids will travel to your station.
- + **Elementary Snacks**—Prepare and serve snacks to all elementary children at an assigned area. Kids will travel to your station. Also prepare a table for teachers.

In addition to these positions, you may consider recruiting 1) a qualified team to handle any medical and security emergencies, 2) a photographer/videographer to capture memories, and 3) a cleanup crew to help pick up at the end of the week.

- ☐ **Volunteer Management Leader**—Estimate the number of children who will attend your VBS and determine your staff need. Begin recruiting the volunteer team. The most effective recruiting methods vary by church culture, but consider using the form that we've included on page 10.

6 MONTHS BEFORE VBS (continued)

In addition to these positions, you may consider recruiting 1) a qualified team to handle any medical and security emergencies, 2) a photographer/videographer to capture memories, and 3) a cleanup crew to help pick up at the end of the week.

- ☐ **Decorations Leader**—Begin planning /decorating decorations for the event site. The decorations should coordinate with the event theme. Here are some ideas for the *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* theme:

- + Create giant posters for the hallways with the five main truths from the lesson.
- + Decorate hallways and stage with praise words, praise actions, and clapping hands/stomping feet.

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Jared Kennedy, Mandy Groce,
Tessa Janes, Kara Jenkins,
& Fletcher Lang

ASSEMBLY-MUSIC-DRAMA
GUIDE



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Introduction

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Worship begins when God speaks and we respond. God says, "I have restored your fortunes" (Psalm 126:1–2). Then, we respond with laughter, because we know that we don't deserve it. God says, "I made you. You are mine. You are my people and the sheep of my pasture" (Psalm 100). Then, we respond by shouting for joy and giving him thanks. That's just how worship works. God shows himself to us. Then, we respond to his revelation with joy and praise.

Every time we lead kids in worship, we call kids to praise the Lord responsively—"Clap your hands! Sing out! Raise your hands! Shout Hallelujah!" One of the dangers inherent in teaching children to worship in this way is that we sometimes call them to do the work of responding without first showing them how God has spoken. If children don't first hear who God is and what he has done to save, our call to worship can become just another demand for performance. But if we tell kids the story of our Great King, they'll rejoice at the privilege of praising him. Jesus has come to earth to rescue his lost children. He is the King who has chosen, rescued, forgiven and befriended us. His love is better than life. It never fails. That's why we sing and shout.

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We want to tell children about the great love of our King and then call them to respond to him by making a joyful noise.



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HOW TO KEEP KIDS SAFE AT VBS.....

58

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Your Job Description

Worship Team: As part of the worship team, your job is to lead in worship during VBS. This may include leading music during each day's opening and closing assemblies, leading music incorporated into the preschool and elementary schedule, and leading worship at a closing ceremony.

Please take time to review this entire book. It contains the opening and closing assembly scripts for each day, and chord charts/lead sheets for all of the VBS music. Songs are recorded on the *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* CD. The lead sheets include hand motions for each song. Be sure to become familiar with these materials before your first rehearsal. Be prepared to introduce the project for which an offering will be collected each day.

Also, be praying now for the kids and families God will be bringing to your church. Pray for open doors for the gospel, and let your leaders know if you have any questions.

Drama Team: As part of the drama team your job is to participate in some aspect of the dramas that accompany each day's opening assembly during VBS. This may include acting, preparing scenery, or gathering costumes and props. The dramas are very simple and have only one or two actors. Scenery used for skits can double as stage decorations throughout the VBS week. More details appear later in this manual.

DAY 1: LAUGH!

God chooses surprising people



OPENING ASSEMBLY

MAIN POINT

Laugh! God chooses surprising people!

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 16:7

SONG LIST *(Lead sheets/Chord charts are at the back of this manual)*

1. "I Lift My Hands"
2. "Psalm 100"
3. "Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet"

Emcee:

Hello everyone! Today marks the beginning of our Vacation Bible School adventure! My name is [your name], and this is [introduce worship leader]. Over the next few days, we are going to learn more about what it means to worship God. Let's start right now by learning this simple truth. Repeat after me. *(Say...)* Worship happens *(allow the kids to repeat after you phrase by phrase)* when God speaks *(kids repeat)* and we respond *(kids repeat; repeat it a couple of times until the kids have learned it)*

Worship Leader:

So, this week, we're talking about worshiping God. He is our King. This week, we will enter the gates of God's love, and we'll see how he calls all people to worship him. Now, we might think that God wants only really sophisticated and mannerly people to worship him. But today we're learning something quite surprising.

That's not who God chooses. We may be the youngest or the smallest or the weakest, but God chooses the weak things of this world to do his most important work. In fact, the Bible tells us that even when we fail and fall down, God comes to his children and holds them in his arms. Let's stand and sing about it together.

SONG: "I Lift My Hands"

DRAMA FOR DAY 1 *(See drama scripts at the back of this manual)*

Emcee: I'm so glad we can laugh together! We can laugh, because God chooses surprising people.

Worship Leader: I'm also glad that God has given us friends to go with us on our worshiping adventure. Coming along with us on our adventure this week is our praise band of worshipful musicians. *(Have a praiseworthy band name ready, and then introduce the band members one by one.)* Now that we've met our band, let's stand and sing another song with them. This song is based on our memory passage for the week, Psalm 100:1-2.

SONG: "Psalm 100"

Emcee: Today, we're learning that we can laugh, because God chooses surprising people. Let me hear your best belly laugh! *(Stick out your tummy and put your hands on top and laugh as loudly as you can. Encourage the kids to do this too.)*

If God chooses surprising people, then we should love everyone... even people who are different from us. One of the ways we can show God's love is by giving to his mission. This week, you will have an opportunity to give.

Missions Offering Video, Testimony, or Explanation

Worship Leader: Now let's sing one final worship song.

SONG: "Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet"

Emcee: *Introduce the staff member who will be praying to close the assembly.*

Staff Member: *(Suggested prayer)* Father, thank you for choosing the small things instead of the tall things. Thank you for choosing the weak things instead of the strong things. Thank you for choosing us. Help us laugh at your surprising ways. In Jesus's name, Amen.

Emcee: *Dismiss the classes one by one. Today, encourage them to place their hands on the belly and pretend to laugh as they leave.*

CLOSING ASSEMBLY

SONG LIST *(Lead sheets/Chord charts are at the back of this manual)*

1. "I Lift My Hands"
2. "Psalm 100"
3. "Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet"

Emcee: Welcome back! Did you all have a laugh-filled first day today at VBS? *(Wait for a response.)* Can you tell me why we can laugh? *(Wait for a response.)* That's right. Today we learned that we can laugh, because God chooses surprising people. We heard a story from the Bible about how God sent Samuel to anoint David even though he was the youngest and the smallest of all his brothers.

Worship Leader: Worship happens when we respond to what God says to us. So let's stand and lift our hands to God in worship.

SONG: "I Lift My Hands"

Emcee: God's choices are often surprising to us, because we don't always understand his ways. But we can trust that he is always doing great things even in weakness and suffering, and we can always praise him. Let's recite our memory verse for the week together.

(On screen) Psalm 100:1–2 "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; Come before him with joyful songs."

Worship Leader: Now let's sing the song based on our memory verse for the week, Psalm 100.

SONG: "Psalm 100"

Emcee: Girls and boys, thank you so much for a great day at VBS! Be sure to come back and learn more tomorrow. Let's stand and clap our hands and stomp our feet together!

SONG: "Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet"

Emcee: *Dismiss with prayer that everyone will come back safely tomorrow. Have kids remain sitting with their classes as parents come and pick them up. Be sure to ask workers who are not assigned to a class to stand at their assigned exit doors to check tags as kids leave.*

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ELEMENTARY
BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

Jared Kennedy, Mandy Groce,
Tessa Janes, Kara Jenkins,
& Fletcher Lang



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Every time we lead kids in worship, we call kids to praise the Lord responsively—"Clap your hands! Sing out! Raise your hands! Shout Hallelujah!" One of the dangers inherent in teaching children to worship in this way is that we sometimes call them to do the work of responding without first showing them how God has spoken. If children don't first hear who God is and what he has done to save, our call to worship can become just another demand for performance. But if we tell kids the story of our Great King, they'll rejoice at the privilege of praising him. Jesus has come to earth to rescue his lost children. He is the King who has chosen, rescued, forgiven and befriended us. His love is better than life. It never fails. That's why we sing and shout.

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Your Job Description

Your job is to lead the elementary-aged children in their daily Bible study. Feel free to adapt the material and make it your own. Before VBS week, please take the time to read through this entire curriculum. Pray now for the kids and families God will bring to VBS, that their hearts would be open to the gospel. Let your leaders know if you have any questions.

Sample Schedule

TIME	K	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5
9:00	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly
9:35	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games
10:10	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts	Snack/Music	Snack/Music
10:45	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts
11:20	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study
11:55	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing

General Bible Study Format

The Bible studies in this guide follow the HOOK-BOOK-LOOK* format:

- ✱ **HOOK—Grab their attention!** A HOOK activity is designed to introduce and overview the lesson. This is a preparation activity designed to engage the child's senses as well as introduce new vocabulary and concepts. This part of the lesson is intended to capture the attention of the children, to set the stage for God's Word. It answers the question, "Why do I need to know this?"
- ✱ **BOOK—This is where you school them.** This is intended to be an interactive time. The BOOK time speaks to the analytic learning style, and it answers the question, "What do I need to know?" The Bible story is the main focus of the lesson. Since learning about God through the Bible is our primary point, we've been painstaking about putting quality preparation into studying the Scripture passage and writing clear, interesting, and interactive stories. The truths of Scripture should be explained in a way the children will understand and enjoy. Each successive day will build on these stories, bringing increasingly profound truths to the children's attention, so don't feel pressured to communicate everything at once. Use visual aids to help keep the children's interest.
- ✱ **LOOK—Look at your heart. Look to Jesus.** The LOOK section works in two ways. First, we want our kids to look to Jesus—seeing Jesus at the heart and center of the Bible story we are teaching. Second, we want our kids to look at their hearts and connect the lesson to their lives. So, we have tried to include creative activities for helping children move from the Bible to their own hearts and lives. The LOOK section speaks to the pragmatic learning style, and it answers the questions, "How

does this truth work? How does it work out in my life?"

**For more information about learning styles and the HBLT method, see Lawrence O. Richards and Gary J. Bredfeldt, Creative Bible Teaching (Chicago: Moody Press, 1970, 1998), pp.151-165, 292-97.*

Supplies

Some supplies will be needed every day and do not appear on the supply list: Bibles for the class, crayons/markers, paper, whiteboard, and dry-erase markers.

Daily Supplies

Day 1: Laugh!

- * A plate of cooked spaghetti noodles and ice cream (or two foods that clearly don't belong together)
- * Basketball and a teddy bear (or sports equipment with any stuffed animal)
- * A buzzer from a board game

Day 2: Clap!

- * A military uniform or camouflage clothing
- * A train table or battlefield landscape drawn on a piece of poster board
- * Plastic army men (green and tan)
- * A larger male doll such as Barbie's Ken or a G. I. Joe figurine. It should be clearly larger than the plastic army men.
- * Slingshot
- * Five smooth stones
- * Paper crown

Day 3: Sing!

- * Rock star outfit (sunglasses, tight jeans, T-shirt, scarf, etc.)
- * 3 pieces of Poster board (with the mad lib activity prewritten on them)
- * Marker

Day 4: Shout!

- * Ark of the covenant visual.
- * Homemade Ark of the Covenant—a wooden or cardboard box spray painted gold with two angels on top facing one another. The ark should have a place on the sides so that it can be carried by poles. Inside, put pictures of the ten commandments, Aaron's rod, and manna.
- * A skateboard or wagon that can be pulled by a rope.
- * *Are You Close to God?* gospel tract

Day 5: Give Thanks!

- * Blindfold
- * Make an obstacle course with cones, a hula hoop, etc.
- * Construction paper and stickers

ELEMENTARY

DAY 1

LAUGH!

MAIN POINT:

Laugh! God chooses surprising people!

SCRIPTURE THEME FOR TODAY:

"But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'" (1 Samuel 16:7)

PSALM MEMORY FOR TODAY:

"Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The LORD has done great things for them.' The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." (Psalm 126:2–3)

TEACHERS:

Some things don't belong together—like a scoop of ice cream on top of spaghetti or a teddy bear on a basketball team. But God often chooses people who look like they don't belong to accomplish his sovereign purposes. When the shepherd boy David became king of Israel, it was just this kind of surprise. How do we respond to God's surprising choice? We can laugh with joy, because God chooses surprising people like you and me. Take this lesson, study it, and make it your own. Allow the truths of Scripture to sink into your heart. Know what you are saying and say it with confidence and excitement.



SUPPLIES

- ❖ A plate of cooked spaghetti noodles and ice cream (or two foods that clearly don't belong together)
- ❖ Basketball and a teddy bear (or sports equipment with any stuffed animal)
- ❖ A buzzer from a board game

Introduce the Theme

(2–3 minutes—*first day only*)

ASK: Does anybody know what this week's theme is? That's right, *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet*! Let's all do that. (Lead the kids in a rhythmic stomp-stomp-clap, stomp-stomp-clap, and chant "Clap-Your-Hands, Stomp-Your-Feet" to the beat.)

Now why is this our theme? It's because clapping and stomping are two of the things the Bible instructs us to do when we worship God. The Bible tells us that we should worship God in response to what he has done for us.

SAY: This week, we're going to be learning all about how we worship God. We worship God because *he is great. He has done great things*. This week we're going to learn how to worship God by laughing, clapping, singing, shouting, and giving thanks.

While we do that, we're going to be learning about what God did in the life of David. The Bible tells us that David was a man after God's own heart. It would be easy to say that David was one of the greatest worshippers of God of all time. He danced, wrote songs, sang, shouted, gave thanks – he did all of it! Let's start learning about him today.

HOOK Grab their attention!

(2–3 minutes)

Have a table set in the teaching area with the props prepared to use as object lessons.

SAY: There are some things that DO NOT belong together. I'm going to show you some pairs of things that work on their own, but it's hard to see how they'd ever go together.

ASK: First, who likes spaghetti? *Hold up the plate of spaghetti and wait for response. You may consider asking what kinds of things the kids like to put on spaghetti—like meatballs or Parmesan cheese.* Now, who likes to put ice cream on their spaghetti? *Take the plate of cooked*



spaghetti noodles and put some ice cream on top. This should get the kids involved and laughing.

ASK: Second, who likes basketball? *Hold up a basketball and wait for response from the kids. You may consider asking about their favorite team.* Now, who would like to have a teddy bear on their basketball team? *Pass a basketball to the teddy bear on the table so that it knocks him over. The kids should be laughing some more.*

SAY: Today we're going to hear a story about David. David was the youngest boy of a big family. He was a shepherd too. He was the last person that anyone would have expected to become a king. Like spaghetti and ice cream or basketball and our teddy bear, David and being king just didn't go together... BUT God chose David to be king. Let's repeat today's main point together.

Main Point: *Laugh!* (Laugh out loud) God chooses surprising people.

BOOK TIME

This is where you school them!

(10 minutes)

Tell the story below. Try to put it to memory so that you don't have to read it. If the children are younger, it may be helpful to use the visuals from the preschool lessons or abridge the story in order to keep their attention. **Essential plot points are highlighted to aid in summarizing.**

Tell the Story: Long ago, there was a man named Samuel. Everyone say *Samuel*. (Wait for the kids to respond.) **Samuel was a man of God. God used prophets like Samuel to anoint new kings for God's people, Israel.** God would tell the prophet who should be king, and then the prophet would go and anoint him as king.

The first man Samuel anointed king was named Saul. Everyone say *Saul*. (Wait for the kids to respond.) **Saul was everything you would think a king should be. He was bigger and taller than everyone else.** He was good-looking and most people liked him. At first, he seemed like he was going to be a great king. He listened to God, and he defeated Israel's enemies. **But then Saul started doing things that were not pleasing to God. He disobeyed God's commands.** He did evil things, and he led God's



people to do evil as well. Israel needed a new king.

One day, God told Samuel, “I have rejected Saul as king. Go to the house of a man named Jesse in Bethlehem. I want to make one of Jesse’s sons the king instead of Saul.” Samuel was afraid. Samuel knew King Saul would kill him if the king heard he had anointed one of Jesse’s sons. But even though he was afraid, Samuel obeyed. He went because God told him to go.

So, Samuel went on a journey to the town of Bethlehem. Everyone say *Bethlehem*. (Wait for the kids to respond.) This is where Jesse and all his sons lived.

When Samuel arrived at Jesse’s house, he noticed one of Jesse’s sons, Eliab. Eliab was tall and impressive. He looked the way a king should look! So, Samuel thought, “This must be him! This must be the one God has chosen to be the next king!” Let’s read what happened next from the Bible.

Read 1 Samuel 16:7 from your Bible (or have a child read): “But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’”

This is amazing! God is saying that it’s not our appearance that matters. **God doesn’t see the same things people see. God chooses differently than people choose.** Let’s repeat our main point...

Main Point: *Laugh!* (Laugh out loud) God chooses surprising people.

Eliab was not the one chosen by God to be king, but Jesse had lots of sons, so he just started to bring them out to meet Samuel. [Line the VBS volunteers up in the classroom in the order of their height.] Jesse brought out his second son, and he was rejected [Sound the buzzer]. Then his third son was brought out, rejected [buzzer]. Fourth son, rejected [buzzer! The kids should be roaring with laughter at this point]. Fifth son, rejected [buzzer!]. Sixth son, rejected [buzzer!]. Seventh son, rejected [buzzer!]. [Thank the workers and have them sit back down with the kids.]

Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these. Are these all the sons you have?” Jesse answered, “There is still the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him, I will not even sit down until he gets here.”



So, Jesse went and got the youngest son out of the field with the sheep. The youngest son was named David. Jesse may have said something like, “David, come in here. There’s a guy in here who wants to talk to you.” David had no idea that Samuel was there looking to find a new king. **David was not expecting to become a king this day, but, when he came in, Samuel knew he was the one. Samuel took David and he anointed him as king.** And then the Bible says the Spirit of God came upon him. Nobody thought David would be king. He wasn’t particularly impressive. He wasn’t even the first pick in his own family! But God chose David. Let’s repeat the main point again...

Main Point: *Laugh!* (Laugh out loud) God chooses surprising people.

LOOK

Look at your heart. Look to Jesus!

(15 minutes)

DO: *Have the kids draw a picture or write a brief story about a time when they were surprised. Were they surprised by something funny or something scary? Have each child share their picture/story with the class. Or, for large classes, have each child share their picture/story with a smaller group of four or five classmates. After everyone has had a chance to share, gather the group back together.*

SAY: Did you know that Jesus is a surprising choice? David was Jesus’s great, great, far-off grandfather. And Jesus was just as surprising as David. He came from a small town in the middle of nowhere. Do you remember the name of that town? It was Bethlehem—the same as David. Jesus’s family wasn’t rich. No one would have chosen Jesus to be our king. Jesus wasn’t particularly good looking. The prophet Isaiah says, “He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him” (Is. 53:2b). But he is our king! God has chosen to save us through HIM!

ASK: Do you ever feel like you will never be good enough? Like you will never be good at sports? Like you will never be pretty enough? Like you are unlovable? *Even if we are adored and loved by friends or parents, part of being human in a broken world is feeling lonely and forgotten sometimes. And if you’ve ever felt this way, I have bad*



news for you. It's worse than you think. We're not just broken and lonely. We're sinners too, and we deserve God's punishment for our sin. Thank God he chooses to save surprising, sinful people like you and me through Jesus.

ASK: How can we respond in worship? *We don't have to be pretty or handsome or strong to respond to God. Because God graciously chooses the people we'd least expect, we can simply laugh with joy and give thanks with a heart of trust.*

The psalm for today says it this way:

Psalm 126:2–3: “Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy... The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.”

Main Point: *Laugh!* (Laugh out loud) God chooses surprising people.

Pray with the children to end your teaching time.



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ELEMENTARY
CRAFTS GUIDE

Jared Kennedy, Mandy Groce,
Tessa Janes, Kara Jenkins,
& Fletcher Lang

Introduction

"Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. (Psalm 100:1–2)

Worship begins when God speaks and we respond. God says, "I have restored your fortunes" (Psalm 126:1–2). Then, we respond with laughter, because we know that we don't deserve it. God says, "I made you. You are mine. You are my people and the sheep of my pasture" (Psalm 100). Then, we respond by shouting for joy and giving him thanks That's just how worship works. God shows himself to us. Then, we respond to his revelation with joy and praise.

Every time we lead kids in worship, we call kids to praise the Lord responsively—"Clap your hands! Sing out! Raise your hands! Shout Hallelujah!" One of the dangers inherent in teaching children to worship in this way is that we sometimes call them to do the work of responding without first showing them how God has spoken. If children don't first hear who God is and what he has done to save, our call to worship can become just another demand for performance. But if we tell kids the story of our Great King, they'll rejoice at the privilege of praising him. Jesus has come to earth to rescue his lost children. He is the King who has chosen, rescued, forgiven and befriended us. His love is better than life. It never fails. That's why we sing and shout.

That is the motivation behind the *Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet* Vacation Bible School. We want to hear God speak about who he is and what he has done for us. Then, we want to call children to respond to God's goodness and greatness with truly *responsive* worship.

- ✱ Laugh! God chooses surprising people! (1 Samuel 16)
- ✱ Clap! God wins the battle! (1 Samuel 17).
- ✱ Sing! God is our faithful friend! (1 Samuel 20).
- ✱ Shout! God is with us! (2 Samuel 6).
- ✱ Give Thanks! God shows his kindness! (2 Samuel 9)

We want to tell children about the great love of our king and then call them to respond to him by making a joyful noise.



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Your Job Description

Your job is to lead each kindergarten and elementary rotation in arts/crafts shop at your assigned area. Kids will travel to your station.

Sample Schedule

TIME	K	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5
9:00	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly	Opening Assembly
9:35	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games
10:10	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts	Snack/Music	Snack/Music
10:45	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts
11:20	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study
11:55	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing

Supplies

Have on hand a generous supply of art materials, including crayons, markers, glue, tape, and scissors.

Day 1: Laugh! God chooses surprising people (1 Samuel 16)

- * Sturdy plastic plates (two for each child)
- * Streamers
- * Decorations including stickers, foam stickers, markers
- * Beans, colorful pom-poms, and small colorful beads
- * Hot glue gun (or regular glue—for attaching streamers to plates)
- * Hot glue sticks

Day 2: Clap! God wins the battle (1 Samuel 17).

- * 2 paint stirrer sticks per child
- * Acrylic paint
- * Paintbrushes
- * Tablecloths

Day 3: Sing! God is our faithful friend (1 Samuel 20).

- * Pipe cleaners (two for each child)
- * Jingle bells of various sizes.
- * Scissors (one pair for each teacher)
- * Small blank circle stickers (optional)

Day 4: Shout! God is with us (2 Samuel 6).

- * Small brown paper bags (one for each child)
- * Small 8" dowels (one for each child)
- * Dried Beans
- * Markers or Paint
- * Paintbrushes
- * Colored yarn

Day 5: Give Thanks! God shows his kindness (2 Samuel 9)

- * Large craft sticks (or tongue depressors; two per child)
- * Strips of paper (two per child) that are the same width and length as the tongue depressor/craft stick.
- * Wide rubber bands (like those used to bind vegetables; three per child)
- * Crayons and stickers (optional)

DAY 1: LAUGH!

God chooses surprising people



MAIN POINT: Laugh! God chooses surprising people!

SCRIPTURE THEME FOR TODAY: 'But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.' (1 Samuel 16:7)

PSALM MEMORY FOR TODAY: "Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.' (Psalm 126:2–3)

SCRIPTURE MEMORY FOR THE WEEK: "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." (Psalm 100:1–2)

LESSON AIM: Today, we are learning how we respond to God with laughter and joy, because he chooses surprising people.

BEAN AND BEAD TAMBOURINE

Here's what you'll need...

- * Sturdy plastic plates (two for each child)
- * Streamers
- * Decorations including stickers, foam stickers, markers
- * Beans, colorful pom-poms, and small colorful beads
- * Hot glue gun
- * Hot glue sticks

Here's how you make it...

1. Before class, staple together two clear plastic plates for each child. Staple around the edges, and be sure to leave a hole at the top.
2. Children should fill their plate tambourines with beans, beads, and colored pom-poms.
3. Then, each child should decorate the outside of their plates with stickers and streamers.
4. Encourage the kids to use their bean tambourine during music time.



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ELEMENTARY GAMES
AND SNACKS GUIDE

Jared Kennedy, Mandy Groce,
Tessa Janes, Kara Jenkins,
& Fletcher Lang



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Groce, Tessa Janes, Kara Jenkins, & Fletcher Lang

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Worship begins when God speaks and we respond. God says, "I have restored your fortunes" (Psalm 126:1–2). Then, we respond with laughter, because we know that we don't deserve it. God says, "I made you. You are mine. You are my people and the sheep of my pasture" (Psalm 100). Then, we respond by shouting for joy and giving him thanks. That's just how worship works. God shows himself to us. Then, we respond to his revelation with joy and praise.

Every time we lead kids in worship, we call kids to praise the Lord responsively—"Clap your hands! Sing out! Raise your hands! Shout Hallelujah!" One of the dangers inherent in teaching children to worship in this way is that we sometimes call them to do the work of responding without first showing them how God has spoken. If children don't first hear who God is and what he has done to save, our call to worship can become just another demand for performance. But if we tell kids the story of our Great King, they'll rejoice at the privilege of praising him. Jesus has come to earth to rescue his lost children. He is the King who has chosen, rescued, forgiven and befriended us. His love is better than life. It never fails. That's why we sing and shout.

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- ✱ Give Thanks! God shows his kindness! (2 Samuel 9)

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Your Job Description

Game Leaders: Your job is to lead each elementary and kindergarten rotation in games.

Snack Leaders: Your job is to prepare and serve snacks to all children attending VBS. Memory work and review questions are provided in this guide to review with the children during snack time.

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10:45	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study	Arts/Crafts	Arts/Crafts
11:20	Snack/Music	Snack/Music	Games	Games	Bible Study	Bible Study
11:55	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing	Closing

Supplies

Day 1: Laugh! God chooses surprising people (1 Samuel 16)

- ✱ As much weird and wacky clothing that you can find from a consignment store. If you can, include oversized clown glasses, oversized shoes, hats, and jewelry.

Day 2: Clap! God wins the battle (1 Samuel 17).

- ✱ Masking tape
- ✱ An assortment of cardboard boxes
- ✱ Paper lanterns decorated like soldiers
- ✱ A cardboard cutout of the giant Goliath
- ✱ Water balloon launchers
- ✱ Small dodgeballs (in assorted colors)

Day 3: Sing! God is our faithful friend (1 Samuel 20).

- * As much weird and wacky clothing that you can find from a consignment store. Use the same clothes from the day 1 game.
- * A big trash bag
- * An audio player to play music

Day 4: Shout! God is with us (2 Samuel 6).

- * An audio player to play music
- * A beanbag
- * Large dodgeballs (at least two)
- * Jump ropes (at least four)
- * Poles (at least four)
- * traffic cones (optional)

Day 5: Give Thanks! God shows his kindness (2 Samuel 9)

- * Blindfold
- * Two large tarps

DAY 1: LAUGH!

God chooses surprising people



MAIN POINT: **Laugh!** God chooses surprising people!

SCRIPTURE THEME FOR TODAY: “But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7)

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GAMES FOR KINDERGARTEN

THE KING SAYS

Start off with the teacher leading the kids in a game of “The king says,” which is played just like “Simon Says”: the leader calls out a series of actions. If the words “The king says” precedes the action, the children should follow the action. If the words “The king says” do not precede the action, the children should do nothing. If the participant completes the incorrect action or moves when the leader doesn’t say “the king says” before the action, they should sit down until the next round.

If there’s time for a second game, allow the winning child to be the leader.

Remind the children how David went on to become a great leader, even though he was younger and smaller than some of his brothers. You can also remind the children how worship involves following. God speaks (as our king), and we respond to him in worship.

Some ideas for the game:

- * Stick out your tongue
- * Jump!
- * Hop on one foot
- * Touch your toes
- * Touch the ground
- * Reach to the Sky
- * Touch your nose
- * Tap your elbow

BROTHER, BROTHER, DAVID

This game should be played just like “Duck, Duck, Goose.” Have all children sit in a large circle. As the leader you should walk around the circle gently tapping each child on the head while saying, “Brother, Brother, David!!” When you pick “David,” the child should chase you back to the empty spot. Allow many different children to have a turn being “David.”

GAMES FOR GRADE SCHOOL

FIND THE MATCH!

Divide the group into 2 teams. Have each team remove their shoes and put them in a giant pile in the middle of the room. The leader should move to the pile and mix the shoes up even more! This makes it more difficult to find their shoes. When the leader shouts, “GO!” the kids should run to the middle of the room and find their shoes and place them on their feet. The team that finishes first is the winner. Remind the children about how Samuel had to look among all of Jesse’s sons to find the one whom God had chosen

DRESS-UP RELAY

Supplies needed: As much weird and wacky clothing that you can find from a consignment store. If you can, include oversized clown glasses, oversized shoes, hats, and jewelry.

Leader should provide a large pile of dress-up clothes. Include as much weird and wacky clothing that you can find such as oversized clown glasses, oversized shoes, hats, and jewelry. One person from each team stands across from their team. Then, each teammate runs across with an item of clothing and helps them dress up. Each relay runner can only put one item on their teammate during each run. The team to add all of the clothes in the pile first is the winner. By the end of the game, the chosen teammates will look funny in all the crazy clothes. Remind them we can laugh, because God chooses surprising people.