

VBS 2026

# 3S-PRe-K

Leader Guide

# SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH PARENTS



**1. God rules.** The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. (Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17)



**2. We sinned.** Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



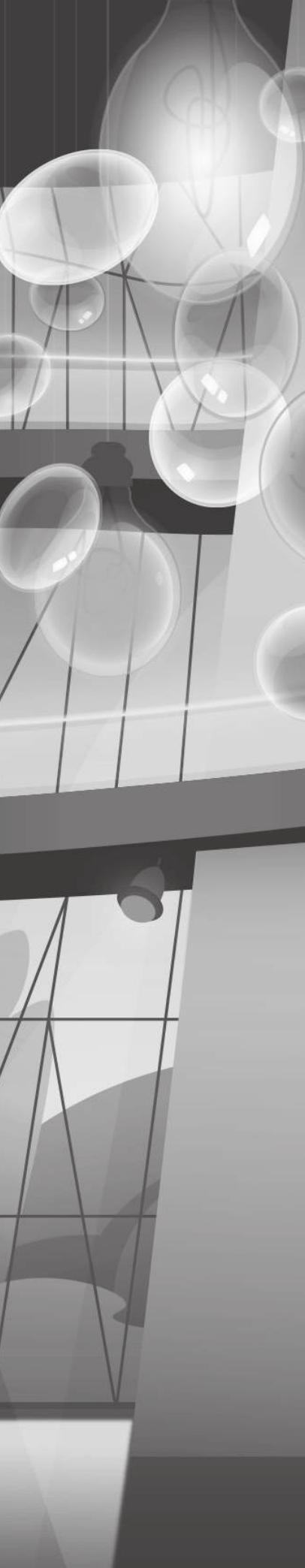
**3. God provided.** God sent His Son Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9)



**4. Jesus gives.** Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18)



**5. We respond.** Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. (John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13)



# MAKE YOUR VBS GLOW!

## ENLIGHTEN YOURSELF

- Read the Scripture passage and leader devotion for each day. Pray that God will speak to you through His Word. Teach from the overflow of what God shows you.
- Pray for the kids you will teach. Pray for yourself and the other leaders at VBS. Ask people to pray for you.

## TOOLS FOR A BRIGHTER LOOK

- Use these curriculum pieces.
- This leader guide (9798384537441)  
The guide contains plans for an opening and a closing group time as well as Bible-learning activities. It does not include plans for rotation activities. (1 guide per teacher)
- VBS 2026 3s–Pre-K Leader Pack (9798384537458)  
The leader pack includes Bible story pictures, posters, cards, and other fun teaching items. A music CD is also included. (1 pack per classroom)
- VBS 2026 Preschool Activity Book (9798384537014)  
This book can be used throughout the week to reinforce Bible learning. Activities are also included for families to do at home. (1 per child)
- VBS 2026 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack (9798384537502)  
This pack contains teaching plans for missions, music, recreation, and crafts. (at least 1 pack per church)

## DETAILS TO HELP YOUR WEEK GLEAM

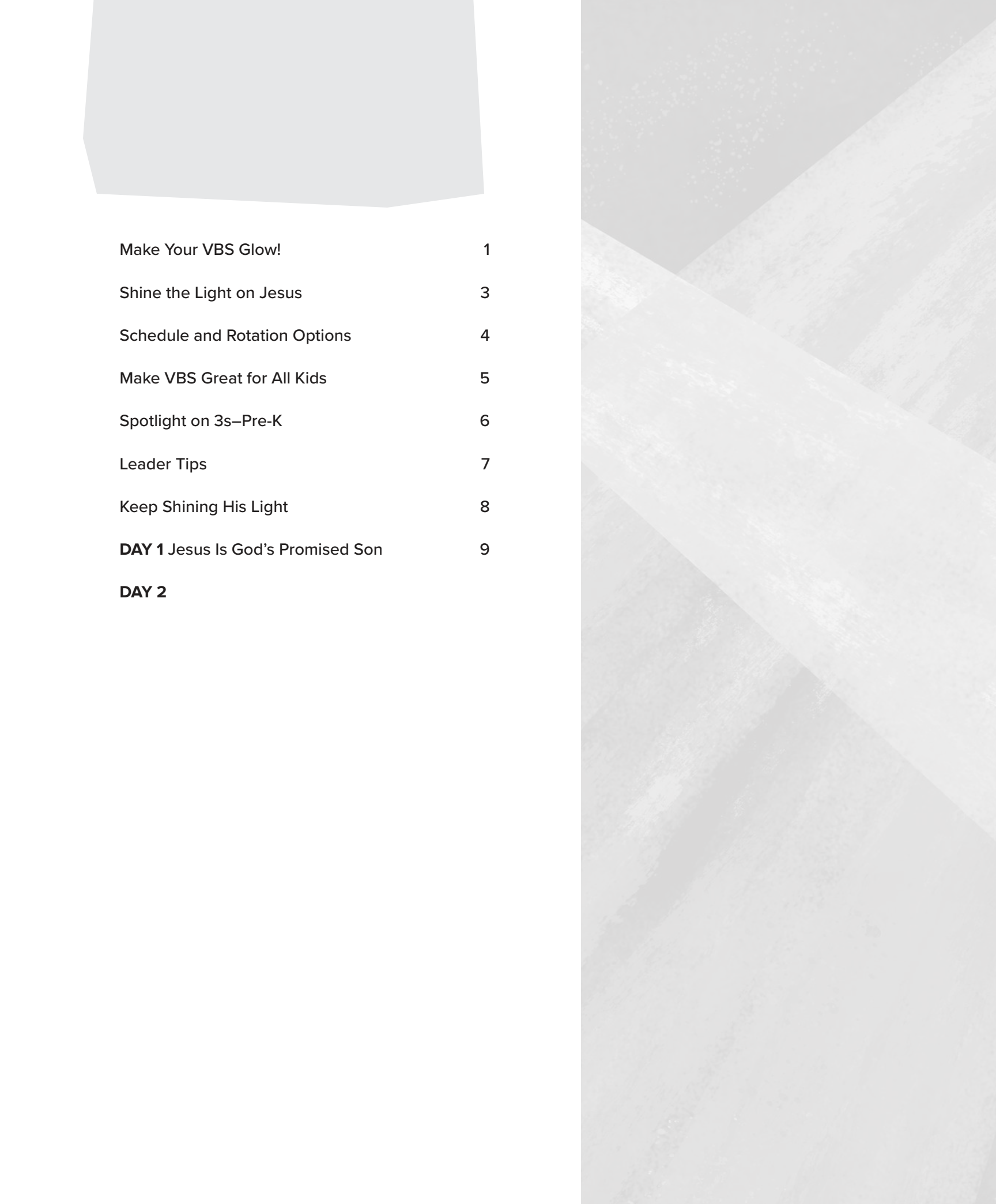
- Find out how long your actual teaching time will be and where you will travel for each rotation activity. (Look at page 4 to plan your schedule.)
- Determine how many children you will have.
- Read through the teaching plans and highlight what you want to include.
- Meet with your other teachers to plan each daily session. Make a list of the supplies you will need.
- Organize and prepare items from the leader pack. Instructions are printed on the bottom of each pack item. Some pack items are printed on the front and back—read the instructions before cutting anything!
- Gather needed supplies. Some VBS directors will gather supplies for you. Check to be sure how your church does this.

## ENJOY THE GLOW

- Relax and enjoy building relationships with your kids.
- Be flexible. Adjust your plans to make this the best experience possible for you and your preschoolers. If your kids get restless, move on to the next activity. Remember that all Bible-learning activities may be repeated throughout the day or week.

## LET HIS LIGHT SHINE THROUGH YOU

- The ultimate goal is to share the love of Jesus with these little ones and their families. Make sure your church has correct contact information for each child in your class.
- Look for ways to stay connected with the children you taught. (See page 8 for a few ideas.)



|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Make Your VBS Glow! | 1 |
|---------------------|---|

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Shine the Light on Jesus | 3 |
|--------------------------|---|

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Schedule and Rotation Options | 4 |
|-------------------------------|---|

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Make VBS Great for All Kids | 5 |
|-----------------------------|---|

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Spotlight on 3s–Pre-K | 6 |
|-----------------------|---|

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Leader Tips | 7 |
|-------------|---|

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Keep Shining His Light | 8 |
|------------------------|---|

|                                          |   |
|------------------------------------------|---|
| <b>DAY 1</b> Jesus Is God’s Promised Son | 9 |
|------------------------------------------|---|

**DAY 2**

Culture claims to know about Jesus, but many people are in the dark about who He really is. Some might see Jesus as just a person from history or a good man or a good teacher—but He is more than that! This summer, VBS will shine a light on the truth of who Jesus really is.

Meet us at Illumination Station for the brightest week of the year. Focus on Jesus at Spotlight Bible Study and bask in the colorful glow of sunlight streaming in at Suncatcher Recreation. Twirl in the glittering refracted light of Mirror Ball Music and pass through strands of twinkling lights on the way to Kaleidoscope Crafts. Turn it all the way up for Neon Snacks and bring it all the way down for Glow-in-the-dark Missions. Kids will explore all the ways light brightens, illuminates, reflects, and reveals while discovering that Jesus is the light who brings hope to a dark world! Like the disciples, kids will be challenged

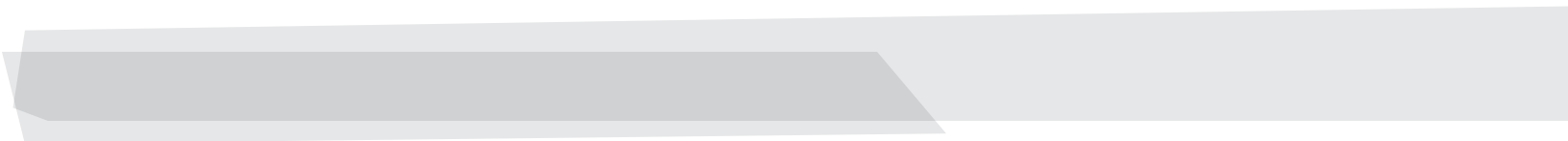




Consider the options below. Feel free to mix and match, rearrange, lengthen, shorten, or omit any elements as needed. Tailor your group's schedule to best suit your time frame, preferences, and overall VBS schedule.

## ACTIVITY OPTIONS

- Plan three (or more) activities. Allow kids to move freely from activity to activity.
- Select two (or more) activities to occur simultaneously. Send a group of kids to each activity and swap after



## NEW KIDS AT VBS

- **Play name games daily.** Hearing that someone knows his name can help a new kid feel at ease. Helping him make friends who also know his name is even better.
- **Explain expectations.** Take time to talk about what the day will look like, what rotations kids will go to, or how they will be moving around campus.
- 



## LITERAL MINDED

- Use simple, concrete language.
- Don't use phrases such as "give your heart to Jesus," "open your ears," or "zip your lips."
- Use pictures to boost understanding.

## CURIOUS

- Provide opportunities for hands-on experiences.
- 



# LEADER TIPS

## BE SAFE!

- Familiarize yourself with your church's policies and observe all safety and security procedures.
- Conduct background screenings and check references of every volunteer prior to participating in VBS. (See the Administrative Guide for more information.)
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# KEEP SHINING HIS LIGHT

1. Encourage parents to use the VBS 2026 Preschool Activity Book (9798384537014) to engage their children in spiritual conversations at home. This book provides a summary of each Bible story from VBS and a family activity to help parents and children personally apply each day's Bible truth.

# DAY 1

## JESUS IS GOD'S PROMISED SON

Think for a moment about a teacher who significantly impacted and brightened up your life. You may have identified this teacher because of how he or she made you feel loved, valued, and understood. This week, you have an opportunity to be that kind of teacher—one who builds meaningful relationships with children, helping them feel loved and accepted in ways they may have never experienced before. Take a moment now to stop and pray, asking God to use you to make an eternal impact on the lives of the children you teach. Continue to do so again each day of VBS.



### **ROOM PREPARATION**

- Prepare pack items (1, 6–15) according to the instructions printed on each item.
- Glue or tape all five “Focal Wall Add-ons” (pack item 7) to the “Focal Wall” (pack





## SEE TYPES OF LIGHT

- Invite kids to gather and sit.
  - Say: "There are many things that shine with light! What are some things that light up? (Allow preschoolers to answer.) Things that light up help us see!"
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JESUS ASKED WHO  
PEOPLE THOUGHT  
HE WAS



# GROUP TIME

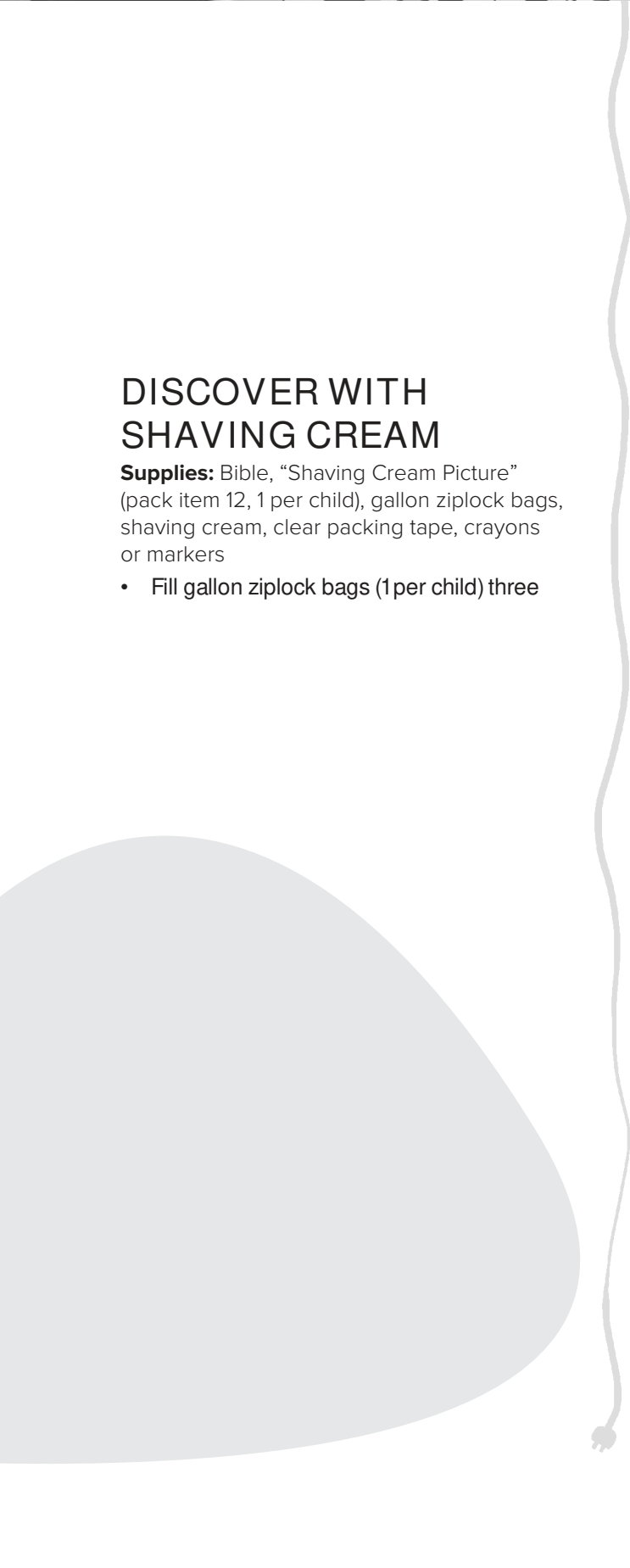
## TRANSITION TO BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Describe each Bible-learning activity in the room today.
-



## DISCOVER WITH SHAVING CREAM

**Supplies:** Bible, “Shaving Cream Picture” (pack item 12, 1 per child), gallon ziplock bags, shaving cream, clear packing tape, crayons or markers

- Fill gallon ziplock bags (1 per child) three
- 



# Bible—LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## **BONUS ACTIVITY**

Roll-a-Cube

- ☐ “Roll-a-Cube” (pack item 14)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Flashlight



**Supplies:** Bible, “Bible Story Picture 1” (pack item 1), *VBS 2026 Glitter Beach Ball* (9798384539810), glow sticks, sticky notes, flashlight, *VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers*, beach ball

### **PLAY A GAME**

- Invite preschoolers to stand in a circle.
  - Pass the beach ball to a preschooler,
- 

# DAY 2

## BIBLE STORY

The Baptism of Jesus  
(Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11;  
John 1:29-34)

## BIBLE VERSE

Jesus said, "I am the light of the  
world." John 8:12 (paraphrase)

## TODAY'S POINT

Jesus is God's perfect Son.





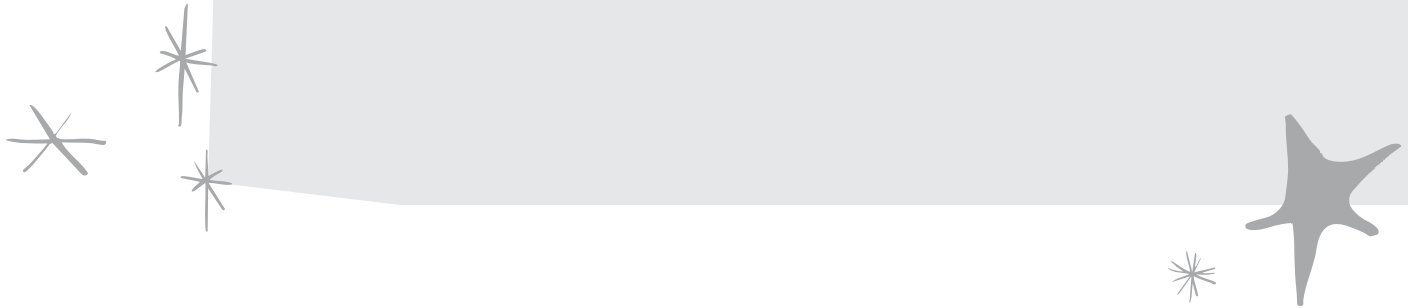
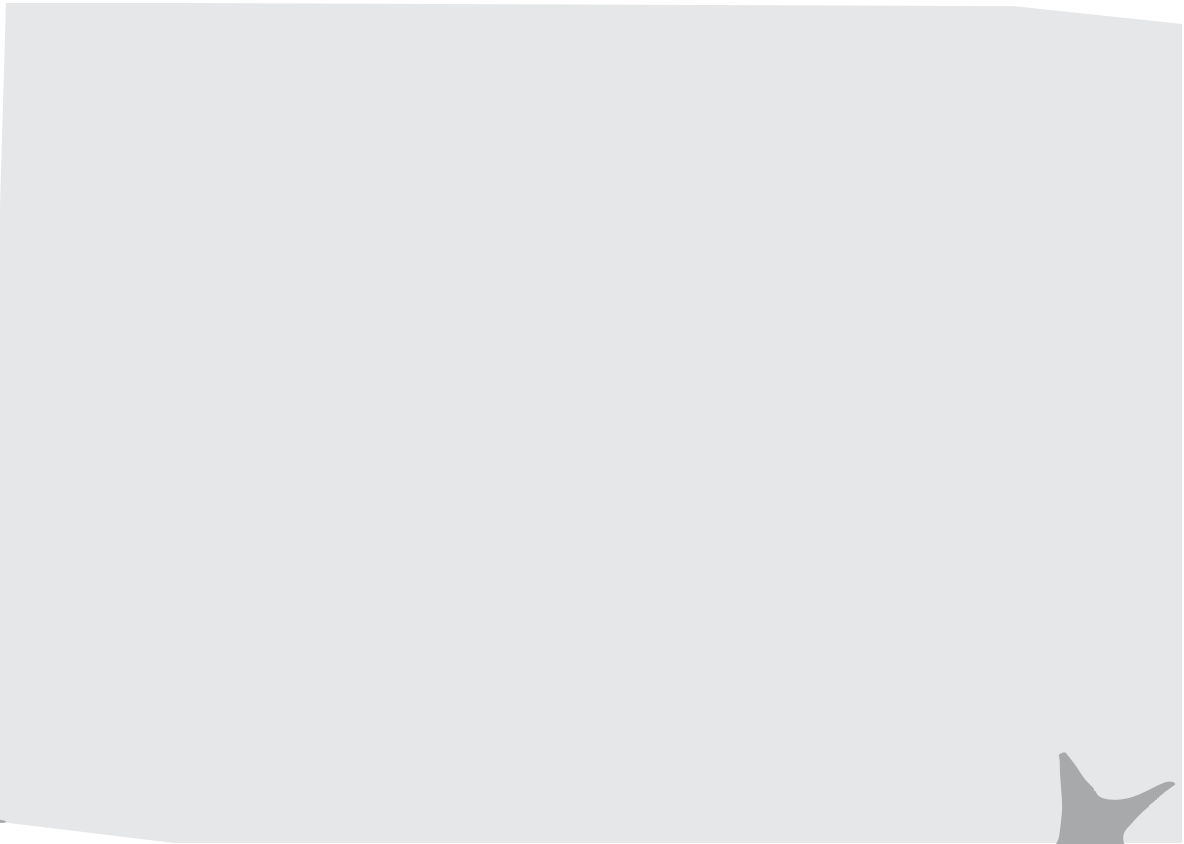
# FREEZE DANCE

**Supplies:** *VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers*, flashlight

- Say: "Welcome to Illumination Station! Today, we get to learn about Jesus, who is God's Son. I am so glad that each of you is here with us! We will have so much fun!"
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- 

**BIBLE STORY GROUP TIME**

- ☐ “Bible Story Picture 2” (pack item 2)
- ☐ “Focal Wall” (pack item 6)
- ☐ “Focal Wall Add-ons” (pack item 7)
- ☐



## **REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY**

Lay out the “Day 2  
Review Questions” (pack  
item 19) facedown. Invite  
preschoolers to spin the  
“Spinner” (pack item 18)

one at a time. When the arrow lands on  
a color, read aloud the corresponding  
review question card. Preschoolers will  
work together to answer the question.  
If the spinner lands on a color that  
has already been spun, allow the next  
child to have a turn. Continue until all  
questions have been answered.

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## JUMP IN ORDER

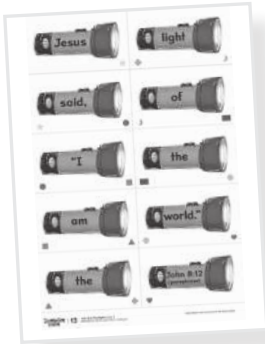
**Supplies:** “Sequence Cards” (pack item 17), construction paper, painter’s tape

- Tape “Sequence Cards” (pack item 17) to the floor in order. Between the cards also tape down colorful pieces of construction paper to extend the jumping path.
- Encourage preschoolers to jump from spot to spot. When they land on a sequence card, ask them to tell what is happening in the picture.
-

## **BONUS ACTIVITY**

### **MAKE PROJECTORS**

- ☐ “Bible Verse Poster”  
(pack item 8)
- ☐ Small paper cups
- ☐ Wide transparent tape
- ☐ Flashlights



### TIPS FOR DISMISSAL

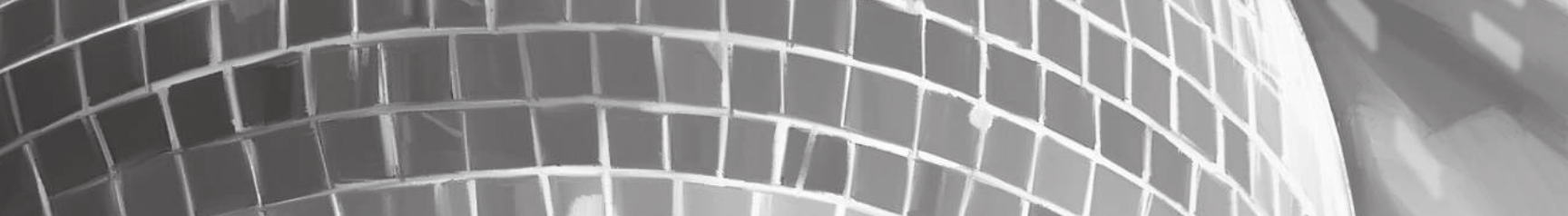
- Follow your church's plan for dismissal.
- Place each child's take-home items by the door.
- Designate one leader to greet parents at the door while other

## DAY 3



Matthew 15:29-39 provides compelling evidence that Jesus was more than just a teacher—He is the powerful Son of God. Let's shed some light on this passage. This account takes place on a mountain near the Sea of

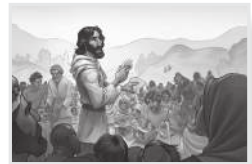




## ROOM PREPARATION

- Prepare pack items (3, 6–8, 13, 22–26) according to the instructions printed on each item.





*Matthew 15:29-39*

One day Jesus went up on a mountain and sat down. A lot of people came to the mountain. Some people could not walk, talk, or see. Some people were sick in different ways. Since Jesus is God's Son He could make the people well. The crowd was surprised to see these people get well. They thanked God for healing the people!

Jesus felt sorry for the people in the crowd. He told His disciples (helpers), "These people



### **REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY**

- Guide preschoolers to answer the following review questions. If the answer is yes, lead them to hold up their fish sticks. If the answer is no, lead them to hold up their bread sticks.
  - Did Jesus help the people who were sick or hurt? (Yes; hold up fish stick.)



# TASTE

## CINNAMON BREAD

**Supplies:** Allergy Alert (see p. 7 to download), bread slices, paper plates, fish-shaped cookie cutters, melted butter, cinnamon sugar mix, small containers, small shakers, plastic spoons, toaster or griddle **Extend:**





## CRAWL THROUGH A LIGHT PRISM

**Supplies:** Bible, “Room Map” (pack item 24), different colors of crepe paper, tape, mini white string lights, light prism, *VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers* **Extend:** “John 8:12 Flashlights” (pack item 13)

- 





**Supplies:** “Focal Wall” (pack item 6),  
“Day 3 Review Questions” (pack item 26),  
“Bible Verse Poster” (pack item 8), equal  
lengths of ribbon, *VBS 2026 Music  
for Preschoolers*

### **PLAY A GAME**

- State an action and lead preschoolers to act out each statement.
- Examples:

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus Died and Rose to Life  
Mark 14:43–16:7

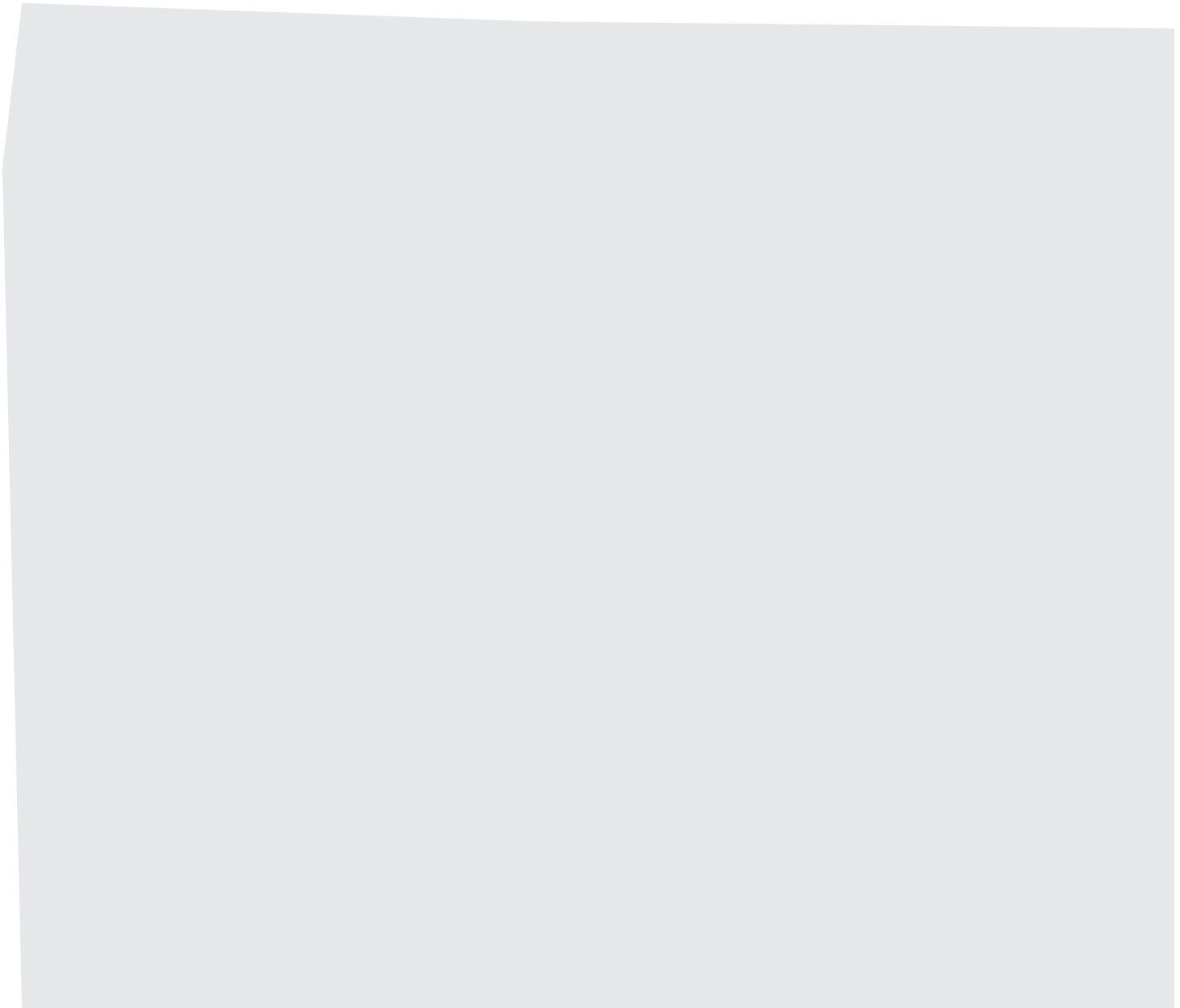
## BIBLE VERSE

Jesus said, “I am the light of  
the world.”  
John 8:12 (paraphrase)

## TODAY’S POINT

Jesus is alive!

**SPOTLIGHT QUESTION:** Was Jesus just  
someone who lived a long time?





## COPY SHADOWS

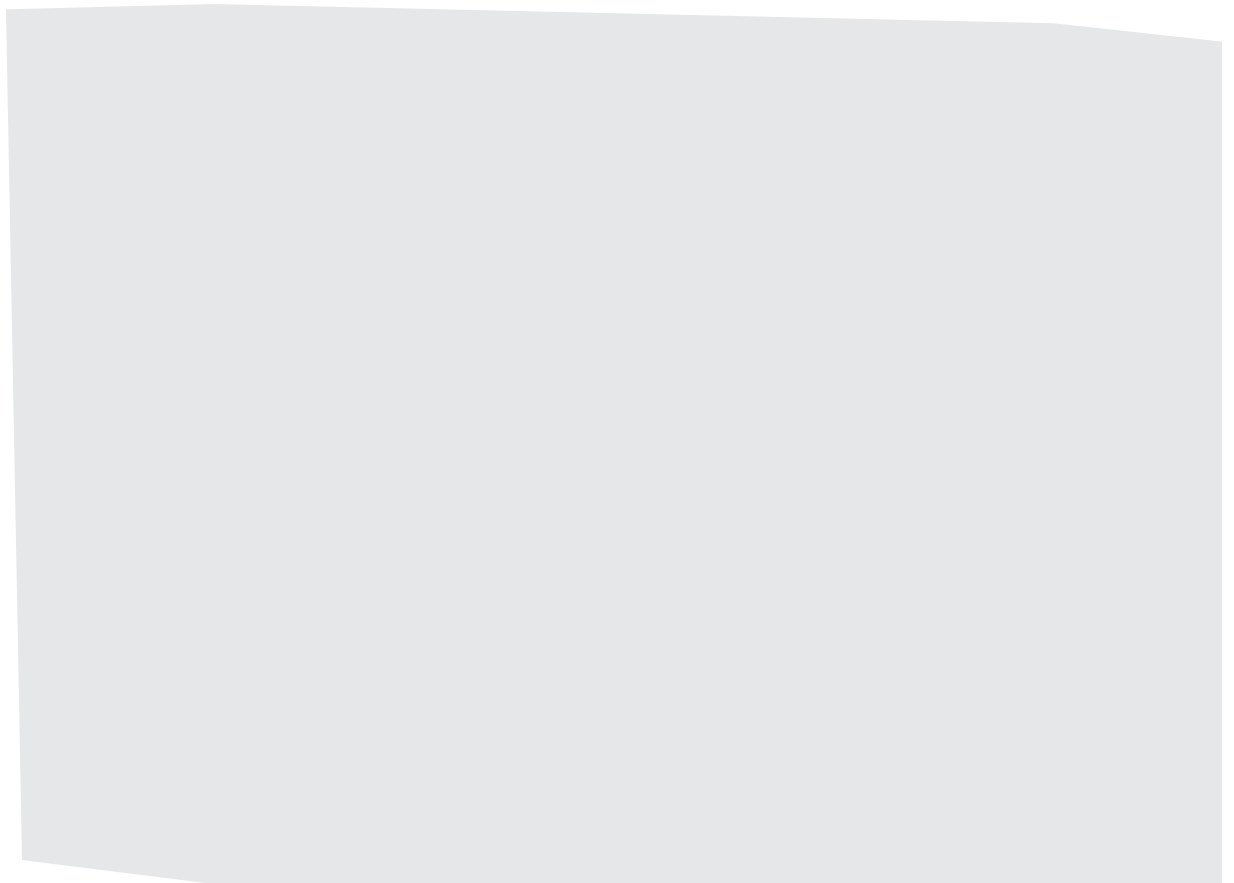
**Supplies:** spotlight or strong flashlight

- Turn on the spotlight and shine it against a blank wall in the classroom.
- Invite preschoolers to line up facing the blank wall, so they can see their own shadows.
- Stand in the center to begin the game. Direct kids to begin making movements



**BIBLE STORY  
GROUP TIME**

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Allergy Alert (if real bread is used)





## REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “Look at our shoebox. What is inside it? Nothing! It is empty, just like Jesus’ tomb! Jesus is alive!”
  - Select a child to spin the “Spinner” (pack item 18). Use the number that the spinner lands on to determine which “Day 4 Review Question” (pack item 27) to ask.
  - Read aloud the corresponding card.
- 

## TAP ON LIGHTS

**Supplies:** tap lights (1 per child) **Extend:**

“Book: *Dark to Light*” (pack item 28)

- Prior to the activity, set out the tap lights, one for each child.
- Say: “I will read a question. If the answer is yes, turn the tap light on. If the answer is no, leave the tap light off.” After a yes answer, guide the children to tap their

## EXPLORE A CAVE

**Supplies:** Bible,  
“Bible Story Pictures  
1–4” (pack items 1–4),  
“Light Source Pictures”  
(pack item 10), bookmark, large appliance  
box, flashlights, tape

- Open both ends of the box. Lay the box on its side to be a “cave” (or tunnel). Tape the “Bible Story Pictures” (pack items 1–4) and “Light Source Pictures”

**Supplies:** Bible, “Bible Story Pictures 1–4” (pack items 1–4), “Focal Wall” (pack item 6), “Focal Wall Add-ons” (pack item 7), shoebox with Bible story items from Group Time, *VBS 2026 Music for Preschoolers*

### **PLAY A GAME**

- Clear the floor of any obstacles. Help preschoolers to sit and form a circle on the floor.
- Call attention to the “Focal Wall” (pack item 6) and invite preschoolers to repeat

# JESUS IS GOD'S PLAN FOR FORGIVENESS

## BIBLE STORY

Peter Preached  
About Jesus  
Acts 2

## BIBLE VERSE

Jesus said, "I am the light  
of the world."  
John 8:12 (paraphrase)

## TODAY'S POINT Ab





## **ROOM PREPARATION**

- Prepare pack items (1–8, 13, 16, 28, 31–33) according to the instructions printed on each item.
- Gather the VBS 2026 Preschool Activity Book



Followers of Jesus were all together in one place for a celebration. While they were there, God helped them speak in many different languages so they could tell people about Jesus. People were confused about what was happening.

Peter and the other disciples stood up in front of the crowd. Peter reminded the people that they saw Jesus do things no one else could do. (They saw Jesus make sick people well and feed many people with just a little food.) These things proved that Jesus is God's Son. But just as God knew would happen, some people did not like Jesus and killed Him. Peter reminded the people that Jesus came back to life.



### **REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY**

- Say: “The disciples told other people about Jesus. Peter preached to the people and reminded them of the things that Jesus did. Let’s play a game to recall the story.”
  - Mix up the “Puzzle Review” (pack item 32) pieces. Set the pieces out in random order with the review questions showing.
  - Select a child to pick up the first review
- 

# BIBLE—LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## TOSS GLOW STICK RINGS

**Supplies:** water bottles, food color, 6 glow stick necklaces (about 22 inches long), index cards, tape

- Place three drops of food color into six full water bottles. Write each word of Today's Point on an index card. Tape an index card on each bottle. Line the six



## BUILD A CITY

**Supplies:** Bible, various size cardboard boxes, washable markers **Extend:** toy people figures

- Say: “In our Bible story today, the followers of Jesus were in one city for a special celebration. Peter got to tell a lot of people in that city about Jesus! Let’s build our own block city.”
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- 



## LEADER TIP

The supply lists shown by day include only items that need to be purchased or collected. Lifeway resources and daily resources are listed separately. Please refer to your leader guide each day to ensure you have everything you need.

## DAILY RESOURCES

Gather these supplies for use each day.

☐ Bibles

## DAY 3

### INTRO ACTIVITIES

#### Pick Which Food Is Better

- ☐ No supplies needed

#### Play With a Doctor Kit

- ☐ Toy doctor kits
- ☐ Gauze bandage rolls
- ☐ Adhesive bandages (latex free)

# ACTIVITY—BASED DECORATIONS

For added fun for your classroom, try these ideas. Preschoolers' imaginations and creativity will soar with just a few little additions to your teaching space.

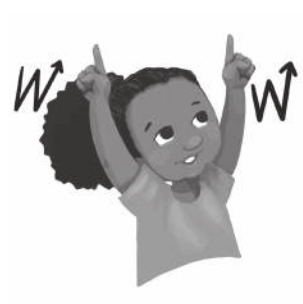
## LIGHT UP A NEON SENSORY BIN

- ☐ Large storage tub
- ☐



Jesus said<sup>1</sup>  
I am the light of the world  
Light of the world<sup>2</sup>  
Jesus said<sup>1</sup>  
I am the light of the world  
Light of the world<sup>2</sup>

**The light of the world<sup>3</sup>**





Jesus obeyed<sup>1</sup>  
 Jesus is kind<sup>2</sup>  
 I can be<sup>3</sup> like Jesus<sup>4</sup>  
 Jesus obeyed<sup>1</sup>  
 Jesus is kind<sup>2</sup>  
 I can be<sup>3</sup> like Jesus<sup>4</sup>

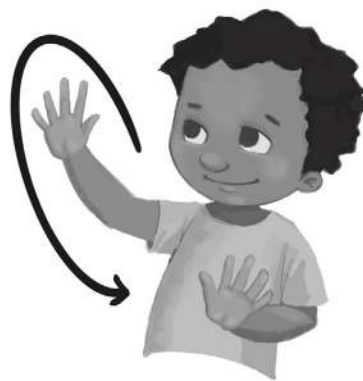
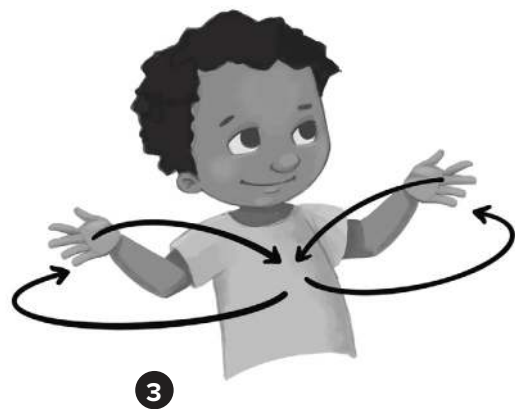
Jesus obeyed<sup>1</sup>  
 Jesus is kind<sup>2</sup>  
 I can be<sup>3</sup> like Jesus<sup>4</sup>

God helps me do what I should do<sup>5</sup>  
 And live the way He wants me to<sup>6</sup>



Jesus can do things<sup>1</sup>  
 That no one else can do<sup>2</sup>  
 He did miracles<sup>3</sup>  
 To show me and you<sup>4</sup>  
 That He's the Son of God<sup>5</sup>  
 This I know is true<sup>6</sup>







# ILLUMINATION STATION



# ILLUMINATION STATION JOHN 8:12

## EQUIP YOUR VBS LEADERS WITH THESE TEACHING RESOURCES!



### **VBS 2026 3s-PRE-K LEADER PACK**

Order one for each class. Includes one  
*Music for Preschoolers* CD.

005853480 • ISBN 9798384537458 • \$29.75

### **VBS 2026 KINDERGARTEN LEADER PACK**

Order one for each class. Includes one  
*Music for Preschoolers* CD.

005853482 • ISBN 9798384537472 • \$29.75

### **VBS 2026 PRESCHOOL ACTIVITY BOOK**

Order one for each child.

005853435 • ISBN 9798384537014 • \$3.60

### **VBS 2026 MEMORY MAKER**

(5 sets)

005853571 • ISBN 9798384538141 • \$8.99



**ORDER YOUR PRESCHOOL RESOURCES  
TODAY AT [Lifeway.com](http://Lifeway.com)!**

Prices and availability subject to change.

**Lifeway VBS**

## JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Culture claims to know about Jesus, but many people are in the dark about who He really is. Some might see Jesus as just a person from history or a good man or a good teacher—but He is more than that! Illumination Station VBS will shine a light on the truth of who Jesus really is. Like the disciples, kids will be challenged to answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" They will discover it's not a matter of opinion. Jesus is who Scripture says He is—the perfect, proven, and powerful Son of God.

**Lifeway® VBS**

[lifeway.com/vbs](http://lifeway.com/vbs)