



2021 VBS Team

training for leaders...

Teamwork-

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor.”

-Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NKJV)



What is a VBS?

VBS stands for Vacation Bible School. It is a fun-filled children's ministry outreach to educate children about God's love for them. The purpose is to incorporate theme activities that provides life-changing experiences for kids to know God. A typical day at Vacation Bible School may include: Worship, Prayer, Bible lessons, Arts and crafts, Games, Snack breaks and Character-building activities. This is were you and I come along, we are the TEAM. Vacation Bible School staff are church members volunteering their time and talents to reach a common goal, God's children.

Which is the VBS Theme?

This year's VBS theme is Cactusville! A mining town tucked away in the desert where the sun is always shining, the skies are bright blue and the surrounding mountains look like broken spurs!

The children will be introduced to the imaginary town of Cactusville where they will learn that they are called by God to be unconditionally loved and accepted, whoever they are. God's calling includes a revelation of the unique purpose He has for each and every child. Each day your Buckaroos and Li'l Cowpokes will learn of a special way in which they have been called to follow Jesus.

Who can participate?

All children in grades PK-8th are invited to attend VBS. High school students and adults from our church are welcome to volunteer as part of the staff. We have planned provision for an enrollment of 24 participants.

Time & Place

Date: July 19th-23, 2021

Time:

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM (Staff)

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (children)

Place:

Cartersville 7th-day Adventist Church

311 Old Mill Rd

Cartersville, GA 30120



Daily Bible Point...

- 1 Called to be Different
- 2 Called to be Faithful
- 3 Called to Forgive
- 4 Called to Serve
- 5 Called to Give

Building

Relationships...

The VBS Staff is key to the success of the program. Your leadership with Gods guidance will make memorable, life-changing experiences for the children, the heart of VBS.

Bible-learning is

How Families Will Learn the Bible

Bible-learning is reinforced through daily Bible Points, stories, and verses.

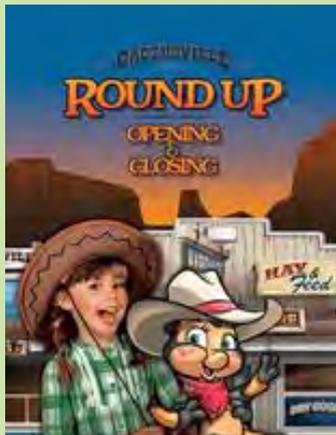


Each day, kids and adults will learn an easy-to-remember Bible Point as

well as a corresponding key Bible verse.



These Scripture passages take on new meaning as kids and adults are immersed in each Bible Adventure!



The chart below shows the Bible content teams will cover each day.

Day	Bible Point	Bible Story	Key Verse
1 	Called to be Different	The story of JOHN the BAPTIST	But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people. – I PETER 2:9 (NIV)
2 	Called to be Faithful.	Kids follow ABRAHAM as he was faithful to God's calling as he journeyed to an unknown land.	By faith Abraham... obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. – HEBREWS 11:8 (NIV)
3 	Called to Forgive.	Kids follow JOSEPH as he models forgiveness.	For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. – MATTHEW 6:14 (NIV)
4 	Called to Serve.	Kids hear the story of DEBORAH and how God helped make her brave enough to serve Him in battle.	Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others. – I PETER 4:10 (NIV)
5 	Called to Give.	Kids hear the story of JESUS and how He gave of Himself so they could live with Him forever.	Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us. – EPHESIANS 5:2 (NIV)



reinforced in every activity.

what's going on?

Round Up

The Round Up is a general session held at the opening and closing of each day's program where all the children (Buckaroos and Li'l Cowpokes) meet together. Each day the VBS program opens in the adventure-packed, exciting imaginary town of Cactusville. Where the Buckaroos memorize the Gold Nugget (memory verse) and learn other important Biblical truths. (The complete script for the skits is included in the Round Up manual.) The children sing lively, knee slappin' songs and meet that day's Cactusville Critter. They also watch an "old timey" Western DVD clip starring Jim Bob and Joe Bob which illustrates the Daily Call for that day.

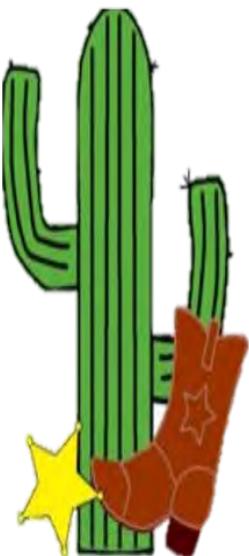
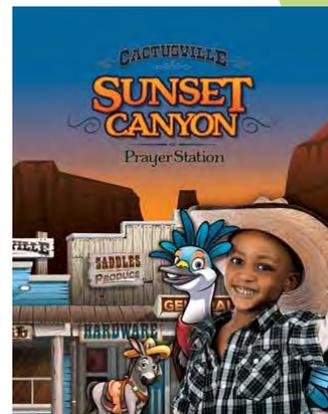
The closing Round Up is the last station of each day. It provides a review through skits and songs of how all the children have been called to follow Jesus. The Buckaroos will be given the opportunity to discuss what they have learned. In addition, during this time the children learn details about their Cactusville mission project.

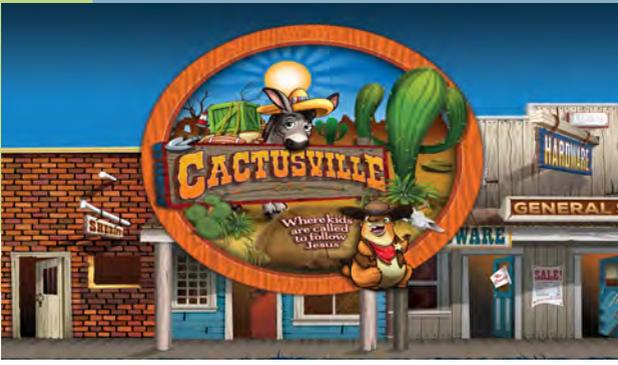
Campfire Stories

This is the station where children can cozy up to the campfire and listen as each day's Bible character comes to life through hands-on, interactive Bible stories. The script is written to involve the kids as much as possible and includes activities and humor to make the story pertinent, interesting, and life-changing all at once. As the stories are told, your Buckaroos will use their senses to explore the Bible story more fully and learn a special way in which they have been called to follow Jesus.

Sunset Canyon

Sunset Canyon is a quiet, reflective place where children can connect personally with Jesus and with that day's lesson through prayer. Your Buckaroos will experience creative ways to pray and will discover the joy of praying for themselves and others. Journaling and special activities provide opportunities to communicate with God in a variety of deep and meaningful ways, and help prayer become as much a part of their lives as breathing and eating.





Before participants arrive...

1. Plan to arrive at least 30 minutes early each day to set up.
2. Let Yahaira or Kim know you're there. We might have specific instructions and will hold a short devotional.
3. Find your "home base" or station and locate your supplies.
4. Check through your supply and be sure it has been stocked (or restocked) with the necessary supplies for that day.
5. Make sure your group or station name poster is clearly identified.
6. Get a list of your group members from the registrar or director.
7. Look over your daily schedule to see what's in store for your group of station each day.

When participants arrive...

After participants register or sign in each day, they'll join you at opening worship assembly. Introduce yourself, and be sure your **group** members know each other's names. Introduce any newcomers to the group. Help each **group** member feel welcome. Write names on the name badges, if those weren't given to **group** members at registration.

Here's What You'll Do



Daily Attendance: (15 min.)

Each day the registration and welcome crew will be responsible to greet and take the attendance of each participant.

Opening Worship Assembly (30 min.)

When the Worship Leader begins, gather with the **group** for opening, singing and worship. Participate in singing and getting to know everyone. When the opening assembly time is finished, lead your **group** to your home base.

Group Meeting (15 min.)

Prepare **group** members for their trip to Cactusville. Help **group** members get to know each other as they discuss what life must have been like in the old wild west. Lead activities like learning Bible verses, completing **each station** shores, and giving **group** members a daily mission to accomplish.

Decorating Team

The Decorating Team job will be to provide the necessary decorations for each station including the Round Up opening and closing sessions, the Pony Express Message Board, and the registration table. It is also their job to act as a stage hand and change props as needed during the Round Up skits, and to make sure the stations have the props they need for each day. They are also responsible for coordinating with the Resource Manager to make sure any borrowed items (props, etc.) are returned once VBS is over. It is important all volunteers to be present the Sunday before VBS to help decorating.

Palace Playground (15 min.)

Lead your Tribe to the Palace Playground area, and wait for the leader to begin. Encourage everyone to listen to the Palace Playground Leader's instructions. Join in the fun, and help younger children, if necessary. Participate in the games wholeheartedly. Your participation will speak volumes to your Tribe members!

Marketplace (60 min.)

Tribes will be "exploring." One group will visit the school, another group will visit the art shop, while the other group will go to the food court. Each Tribe will have the opportunity to visit the food court and prepare a healthy snack with a learning objective.

Before heading into the Marketplace, remind Tribe members that they will visit each station with you, plus purchase a snack in the Food Court. Each Tribe member has three darics (or coins) to spend in the Marketplace.

Encourage everyone to listen to the shopkeepers and ask questions about how projects or tasks might be done.

Assist young children with any projects they choose to do. Tribes will have 30 minutes, so encourage everyone to take their time and work at a comfortable pace.

Keep an eye on kids who might need a hand with a certain element of a project. There is enough material for 40 participants.

Closing Tribe Time (30 min.)

Gather Tribe members for the closing Tribe Time. Help Tribe members connect what they've learned in to real life through simple object lessons, discussions, and experiences. Make a list of the supplies you'll need for these activities and make sure to give it to Loretta or Yahaira to purchase it.

Distribute a Bible Memory Maker each day. Bible Memory Makers is a special craft, each with the day's Bible verse printed on it. Participants will put their Bible Memory Makers in the Daniel's Memory Bag once they finish it by the end of the week. At the end of the week, they can take the Bible Memory Makers and other crafts home as a lasting keepsakes, reminding them of their time in Daniel's VBS.

Gather coin pouches, and leftover darics that were not spent in the Marketplace so you can use them the next day. Make sure to redistribute three darics for each coin pouch every day.

When you hear the attention-getter, you will know it's time to lead your Tribe members to the closing Worship Assembly.

Closing Worship Assembly (30 min.)

Participate in singing or other activities as directed by the Celebration Leader. Keep your Tribe together until parents or caregivers come for kids. Do not let kids wander off on their own! Remember, you're responsible for their safety.

Let Tribe members know you're looking forward to seeing them tomorrow.

What to do if...?

1. What to do for my **group** to stay together between activities?

Work with your **group** members to develop special routes and fun ways to travel between stations. Pretend to be a galloping donkey caravan, a skipping herd of sheep, or a swimming school of fish. Be creative, and challenge kids and adults to think of new (and cooperative) ways to move from place to place.

2. What do I do if older kids are unhappy being grouped with mixed ages?

Highlight older kids' helping roles by telling younger kids, he or she is really good at that. Ask him or her to help you?" Older kids will enjoy being respected and looked up to, and younger children won't demand so much of your attention. Plus, older kids learn just as much or even more when they help lead younger children during activities. Younger children will thrive on the special friendships they build with older kids!

3. What do I do if a **group** member won't participate in discussion?

Ask follow-up questions to draw out shy or reluctant **group** members. Use phrases such as "What do you mean by that?" or "That sounds interesting! Tell me more." Accept the answers kids and adults give. Encourage participation by challenging **group** members to offer as many different answers as they can think of.

If participants offer answers that seem off base or contrary to the church's teaching, take time to follow up with them between activities or after your time. If you're not comfortable discussing their questions or concerns, refer them to Matt, Yahaira, Loretta or Pstr. Sierra.

If **group** members don't respond to your encouragement, don't force them to participate. You may have introspective people in your group who need time to think quietly about the things you're discussing.

4. What do I do if a **group** member is too talkative or too active?

To ensure that each person has a turn to share, try going around the circle and giving each member 30 seconds to share a response. Or occasionally ask children and adults to respond with one-word answers. You can even call on people by their birthdays.

5. What do I do if my **group** finishes an activity early?

Here are some fun ideas if you need to fill a little time. Make up an affirming **group** cheer that everyone can shout during the opening and closing assembly. Try to play naming places and persons of the Bible games that start with each letter of the alphabet. Think of fun ways to affirm each children, such as giving them high fives or a round of applause for the tasks they learned each day.

Group Wranglers & Tips

Attend scheduled staff training. We will set up training for all staff who will serve. Plan to attend this important meeting so you can get the big picture of how your role fits into this exciting program.

Familiarize yourself with your guides. Read each day's Bible background, Scripture, and activities. That way you'll be prepared to give your VBS group members accurate information and not have to refer to the instructions as you're leading each activity. You may want to highlight certain portions so it's easy to facilitate the experiences at a glance.

Use your Bible. It's important for group members to see you looking up Scripture passages and reading them directly from the Bible. This reminds everyone that the stories they are learning come from God's Word. It's a good idea to mark each day's Bible passage ahead of time so you can turn to it quickly.

After Your Trip to

Thanks for bringing God's Word to life in new and unforgettable ways! Your love and time added so much to this awesome program. Here are a few tips for wrapping up our VBS and carrying the excitement beyond this week!

Follow instructions to help clean up and organize for the graduation ceremony. Return decoration or other materials to Yahaira, Matt, or Loretta. Write down any great stories or insights about your group members. Share these with the church so they, too, can see how God worked in your group. Follow up with your group members. Send a postcard let-



Keep children safe. Keep your group together as much as possible so children are never alone. If a child needs to use the restroom, take a few kids with you, and leave the rest with your Assistant group Leader. Only release kids to a parent or authorized caregiver. If you haven't completed the Adventist Child Protection Screening, please do so using the following link: <https://www.ncsrisk.org/adventist/>

A group or station Leader is a friend and a helper who... Smile! Be a friendly face that group members look forward to seeing. It's likely that you'll have group members who are new to your church, so be sure to welcome everyone with friendliness and warmth.

Call each person by name. This is one of the easiest ways to affirm and encourage the children in your group. Make sure each member feels valued and welcomed.

Get to know your group members. Ask about their families, hobbies, and kids' favorite subjects in school. Draw others into discussions as much as possible.

Participate in all of the Cactusville Adventure activities with their group helps and encourages other staff members. The more involved everyone gets, the more meaningful the program will be for all ages.

VBS...

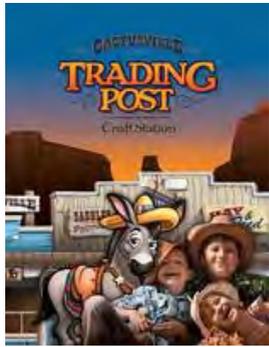
ting each person know how much you enjoyed getting to know them. If you see families at church or in your community, be sure to offer a friendly hello. If you took pictures of your group, we may be able to use it at the graduation ceremony.

Fill out an evaluation form. Yahaira may have evaluation forms for all staff members to fill out. Your feedback is important! Help us make next year's

VBS Adventure even more exciting and safe! Make space to share with the staff on a cookout or field trip to celebrate. Ideas are welcome!

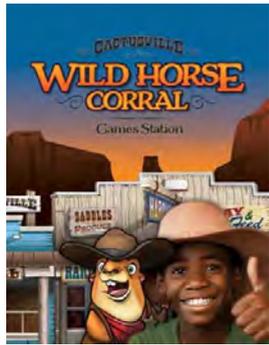


Safety First



Trading Post

The Trading Post is the station where children make fun crafts that have been carefully and intentionally chosen to enhance the lessons learned at the Campfire Bible Stories station. The kids will have an opportunity to use their imaginations and be creative. Each day the kids will make a quality craft that they will cherish and remind them of a way in which God has called them to follow Jesus.



Wild Horse Corral

During their time at the Wild Horse Corral, the children will have a chance to run, get the wiggles out and have fun playing a variety of original games that reinforce the Daily Call. We've chosen games that are easy, fun, and require minimal resources. Some alternate activities are also suggested, so leaders may select the game that works best for their group.



The Chuckwagon is the place where your Buckaroos will experience and enjoy tasty Cactusville snacks that reinforce the Bible stories. At this station, each day's lesson is reinforced through creative finger foods and an interactive placement where children can leave messages for the next group or write personal messages to themselves. The Cactusville program intends for the Chuckwagon to be one of the stations in the daily rotation, but separate from the other activities taking place. This friendly, low-key setting is a perfect time for the Buckaroos to get better acquainted with their Wrangler.

