

COTTONWOOD CREEK CHURCH  
VOLUNTEER GUIDE  
VBS 2026

Thank you for making VBS possible!  
May the Lord be glorified in and through you as  
children come to know Him!

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# STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Title	Phone	Email
<b>Children's Ministry</b>			
Dave Marsh	Children's Pastor	972-838-5040	<a href="mailto:david.marsh@cottonwoodcreek.org">david.marsh@cottonwoodcreek.org</a>
Shareen Feltner	Children's Assistant	469-774-0935	<a href="mailto:shareen.feltner@cottonwoodcreek.org">shareen.feltner@cottonwoodcreek.org</a>
<b>Elementary Team</b>			
Kelly Kitch	Elementary Minister	817-891-2222	<a href="mailto:kelly.kitch@cottonwoodcreek.org">kelly.kitch@cottonwoodcreek.org</a>
Elizabeth Dodd	Large Group Director	214-491-0455	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.dodd@cottonwoodcreek.org">elizabeth.dodd@cottonwoodcreek.org</a>
Becky Coburn	Elementary Director	518-791-5365	<a href="mailto:Becky.coburn@cottonwoodcreek.org">Becky.coburn@cottonwoodcreek.org</a>
Erin Millisor	Elementary Director	616-706-6164	<a href="mailto:Erin.millisor@cottonwoodcreek.org">Erin.millisor@cottonwoodcreek.org</a>
<b>Early Childhood Team</b>			
Catherine Hathaway	Early Childhood Minister	972-743-6001	<a href="mailto:catherine.hathaway@cottonwoodcreek.org">catherine.hathaway@cottonwoodcreek.org</a>
Brittany Basinger	Nursery Director	210-323-1246	<a href="mailto:brittany.basinger@cottonwoodcreek.org">brittany.basinger@cottonwoodcreek.org</a>
Leda Blas	Pre-K & Kinder Director	469-952-4032	<a href="mailto:leda.blas@cottonwoodcreek.org">leda.blas@cottonwoodcreek.org</a>
Caley Cekinovich	2s & 3s Director	972-984-8251	<a href="mailto:caley.cekinovich@cottonwoodcreek.org">caley.cekinovich@cottonwoodcreek.org</a>

<b>CottonwoodCreek Church</b>	
	<a href="http://www.cottonwoodcreek.org">www.cottonwoodcreek.org</a>
<b>Creek Kids</b>	
	<a href="http://cottonwoodcreek.org/kids">cottonwoodcreek.org/kids</a>
	Cottonwood Creek Kids
	<a href="https://facebook.com/CottonwoodCreekKids">facebook.com/CottonwoodCreekKids</a>
	CottonwoodCreekKids
	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/cottonwoodcreekkids">www.youtube.com/cottonwoodcreekkids</a>

# What is Expected of Me?

Thank you for serving alongside your CREEK KIDS ministry team! We expect God to do mighty things and are excited to share the nature of God with each child. It is all possible because you sacrificed your time and energy for children to learn about our SAVIOR! So now you might be asking, what have I committed to? That is fair, hopefully this will help:

1. Be in prayer. Luke 10:2 says *"He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*
  2. Get excited! Kids can tell if we are just going through the motions or if we are invested in the experience! Let your inner child come out and play!
  3. Think about how to make your space inviting, colorful, and FUN! We have ideas building on our Leader Resources tab on our church website. Some leaders LOVE to decorate—others get overwhelmed. KEEP IT SIMPLE. THINK—COLOR—COLOR—COLOR. Reach out to our team if we can be of help! Please note the DECORATING DOS & DON'TS page in this manual.
  4. Plan to get organized SUNDAY, JUNE 7<sup>th</sup>. Most spaces will be ready to access at 3 p.m. It will be helpful for the week if you plan to meet up with your team on this day to make sure you are ready. If you do not know who your team is, please reach out to our staff.
  5. Please make sure you are prepared for the next day, before you leave, by going through the BEFORE YOU HIT THE JUNGLE section of the day's information.
  6. LOVE ON KIDS! The whole week, no matter what is thrown at us, may LOVE be the trait that surpasses all others! We have planned many things, however, understand connecting with the kids and your other leaders, is a major goal of VBS.
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# THINGS TO NOTE & SUNDAY CHECKLIST

- **Summer T-shirts**

On sale at the VBS booth for \$15 each. Shirt purchases help offset the cost of VBS. We hope that children and adults will purchase t-shirts to wear throughout the week.

**VBS Staff can be found wearing BLUE during the week of VBS.**

- **Child/Adult Protection**

- If a background check is needed, look for a separate email from Shareen Feltner. It's a 2-step process to complete, so your immediate attention is appreciated.
- RULE OF 3: Do not be alone with a child in a secluded area – always have one other adult present.
- We ask that you do not take pictures of children and post them to your personal social media sites.
- Cell Phone Usage – Please limit cell phone usage to focus your time and energy on the kids.

- **Imagination Station**

All supplies should be in your gray tub; if you need anything, visit the INFORMATION/SUPPLIES locations--downstairs at the desk near the fish tank.

- **Kids Snacks**

Located outside of the kitchen area downstairs. Assign one leader to pick-up snack and then return unused snacks and water pitchers to the kitchen each day as soon as you are finished.

- **Adult & Youth Leader Snacks**

For those serving, ONE SNACK/DRINK is provided for you each day. This location will be communicated during training and our Monday Note that will be in your classroom. Determine a rotation schedule for each leader to go quickly to select their snack and drink for the day. Bible Story or Worship are great times to arrange this, however, note a snack cart will be coming around, too.

- **Nurse Station**

The nurse station is located downstairs at the Creek Kids Welcome Desk. If one of your students does get sick or injured, please have ONE leader take them to the nurse and then return to class. The nurse will either bring the child back to your classroom or let you know that they have been picked up. There will be Band-Aids in your supply bucket if that is all that is needed.

- **Discipline**

Handle all issues with patience, love, and respect. We are here to help you if you have a discipline issue, locate a staff member or hall monitor to assist you. Text/call Kelly for assistance: 817-891-2222.

- **Youth Leaders**

We are counting on our Youth to be strong, responsible leaders. Kids LOVE them and will respond well to them, making it a positive experience for everyone. Youth should be reminded that they are LEADERS and need to set a good example. Sponsors are responsible for their behavior. Help assign youth leaders specific jobs each day, so they will know what to do.

Some examples of youth friendly tasks:

- Pick-up and return the snacks every day
- Help write kid's names on their name tags
- Help with Question-of-the-Day / arrival activities
- During any hands-on activities, have them walk around and help kids

## **SUNDAY, JUNE 7<sup>th</sup> CHECKLIST:**

- Decorate your space! Decorate your room (KEEP IT SIMPLE). Leave room on one of the walls to hang the butcher paper, which will be delivered Sunday afternoon to your room). This large paper will be used every day to make a RAINFOREST SCENE! Notes: Hang the large butcher paper on a wall where kids can reach it in the area you plan to gather for the Question-of-the-Day AND God Sightings during the WELCOME portion of your morning. Hang Monday's Question-of-the-Day Poster near or on a corner of the butcher paper. Each day every child will add a sticker to represent their vote on the Question-of-the-Day and write their God Sighting on the small paper shapes they choose and tape it on the paper.
- MAKE YOUR PICK-UP CODE NOTE CARDS, writing the child's name and code on each card, to hand to the parent as they drop off tomorrow. You will encourage the parent to take a picture of the card to share with other authorized adults or in case they lose it. The parent will need to show/say this code to release the child to him/her at pickup or an ID will be required to be checked by the Creek Kids staff.
- Prepare your lanyards and name tags by writing the kids names on their name tag and fitting them into the tag holder on the lanyard.

# DECORATING INFO, DOS, & DON'TS

Most spaces will not be available until 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. Most leaders create items at home leading up to June 7<sup>th</sup>.

If you are in a space upstairs, you can get in your space as early as Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

All decoration must be completed by end of the day, Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Each room will be provided with a laminated poster that will have their grade and wristband name on it to help parents find the right room. Please account for this in your **doorway decorations**.

A decoration supply table will be located near the fish tank downstairs throughout the weekend. Additional resources and die cuts are in the Resource Room (Trail 2: Room A129). You are welcome to use any supplies; however, please return the supplies to their place when you are finished. Please be thoughtful when decorating your room and consider that all rooms need decorations. We have ideas on our church website: [cottonwoodcreek.org/vbs](http://cottonwoodcreek.org/vbs), then follow leader links.

Please note that if you choose to purchase any additional supplies, the Children's Ministry will not be able to reimburse that expense. You can search for RAINFOREST FALLS decorating to find suggestions from sites like, Group.com, Oriental Trading, Pinterest, etc.

## Decorating Info, Dos, & Don'ts Continued:

- Please do not use lights that need to be plugged in.
- If you want to hang items from the ceilings, you are limited to using the clips that are already in place. Do NOT move the preplaced hooks.
- Ensure the window on any door is not covered.
- Please use Mavulus or blue painters tape or sticky tack on the doors. DO NOT USE STAPLES, SCOTCH TAPE, OR MASKING TAPE ON DOORS or WALLS. No command hooks or strips. Do NOT USE TAPE on the Atrium, Chapel, or Student Building Floors.
- Staples MAY NOT be used on ANY walls or doors! Use 'T' pins on partitions.
- Use only a pencil to trace a transparency on paper against the wall. Markers or pens may bleed through the paper.
- NO glitter please, we really want to keep Facilities happy.
- If you borrow the overhead and are using it after "normal" hours (8:30-5:00), please return it to the facility's office across from the supply table near the fish tank.
- If you use the last of a supply, please let Shareen Feltner know in A145.
- If you bring your kids with you to decorate, please make sure that you keep them under your close supervision.
- Please clean up after yourself when the decorating is complete, replace items, throw away miscellaneous scraps and any items that you might bring with you, i.e., food containers.
- If you have any questions or need anything, see Shareen Feltner.
- If your room does not have a ceiling, please do NOT make a paper ceiling or canopy, as that is considered a fire hazard.

HAVE FUN WITH IT!

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# PRO-TIPS

Maybe you are a seasoned leader, or this is your first time, here are some tips by volunteers like you that may be helpful to know before Monday gets here!

1. Take a deep breath and remember to be a safe space for your kids. Beyond the activities and chaos in transitions, the goal is that EVERY child feels known and loved.
2. Encourage your whole team (especially youth) to participate in everything. Kids are watching and imitating. If you don't worship, they won't worship either! Be excited to serve! If you can't get to everything, that's okay. Make sure you get to the gospel every day no matter what!
3. Leaders, keep your students in a single file line, to the right side, when moving from place to place. Be considerate of the other classes. Transitions are hard as 2000 lil' people plus leaders are in motion. BE PATIENT. Cutting across other lines is not helpful. BREATH and know everyone will end up where they are supposed to.
4. Have your group stop by the bathroom before large group times: Bible Story and Worship.
5. Have a loving conversation with your youth leaders in advance and be more direct and clearer about boundaries. The kids LOVE the youth leaders and at times kids will hang on them, have them carry them, or sit in their lap. It is wonderful to see these connections, however, can also create a few challenges. Address these things as soon as you see them, with love.
6. You have support all around you; here are some contacts to consider as needs arise:
  - Each grade has a coordinator; you should have their phone number given to you Monday morning. He or she is available to you.
  - Kelly Kitch, the Elementary Minister, is available to you for issues with children or leaders: 817-891-2222
  - Terra Towne is our Buddy Coordinator and available to assist with children with special needs concerns and behavior concerns in general.
  - First Aid/Nurse is downstairs near the fish tank.
  - Other staff contact numbers are at the front of this manual if you need additional support.
7. Be prepared for day one of Recreation! I didn't fully get it until I saw it in action!  
Recreation requires all of us to be on the same page; please follow these tips:
  - Transition to REC using the two hallways that are on the sides of the gym, as indicated on the TRANSITION FLOW map.
  - Find your group sign and have your group GO TO it, place shoes in your basket if they want their shoes off, THEN they can go play.
  - Your group will meet at your designated area for transition to your next rotation.
  - Enter the building using the doors as indicated on the TRANSITION FLOW map.

# ROTATION SUMMARIES

## **Welcome | Classroom**

As an adult leader greets and checks-in each child, the other leaders will ensure wristbands and name tags are on. The children will answer the Question of the Day, engage in God Sightings, and have a VBS Activity Workbook to work through.

## **BibleStory | Worship Center**

Escort your children to the front of the Worship Center for Bible Story and stay to help monitor your class during the story time. The assigned rows are for Worship time not Bible Story. Get as close as you can to the middle front area. Make sure your hand sign is visible in your lap for staff to locate your group quickly.

## **Imagination Station & Snack Time | Classroom**

The activity instructions are in this packet. This time will be spent presenting the Gospel DAILY, as well as, reinforcing the Bible lesson for the day with a hands-on activity. The supplies needed will be in your gray tub. It is up to the leaders whether you offer snack at the beginning of this time or the end. Leaders can pick up snacks outside of kitchen area downstairs.

## **Recreation | Back of Church Outside**

Please escort your children to Recreation outside, in the South-side of campus. All groups must enter via the hallways as indicated on the TRANSITION FLOWS map provided. Plan to stay to supervise and engage with your children.

## **Worship | Worship Center**

Please take your class to the Worship Center. During worship, please keep your group in their gradelevel designated rows; have a leader sit at the end of each row to help monitor the group. **Do not allow them to stand on a seat.** Kids should remain in their seated area, not in the aisle or toward the stage. PLEASE NOTE, lil' fingers will get smashed/cut when under the seat cushion. Keep hands in their laps. Ear plugs are available at the media booth; ask a staff member in the booth for the ear plugs.

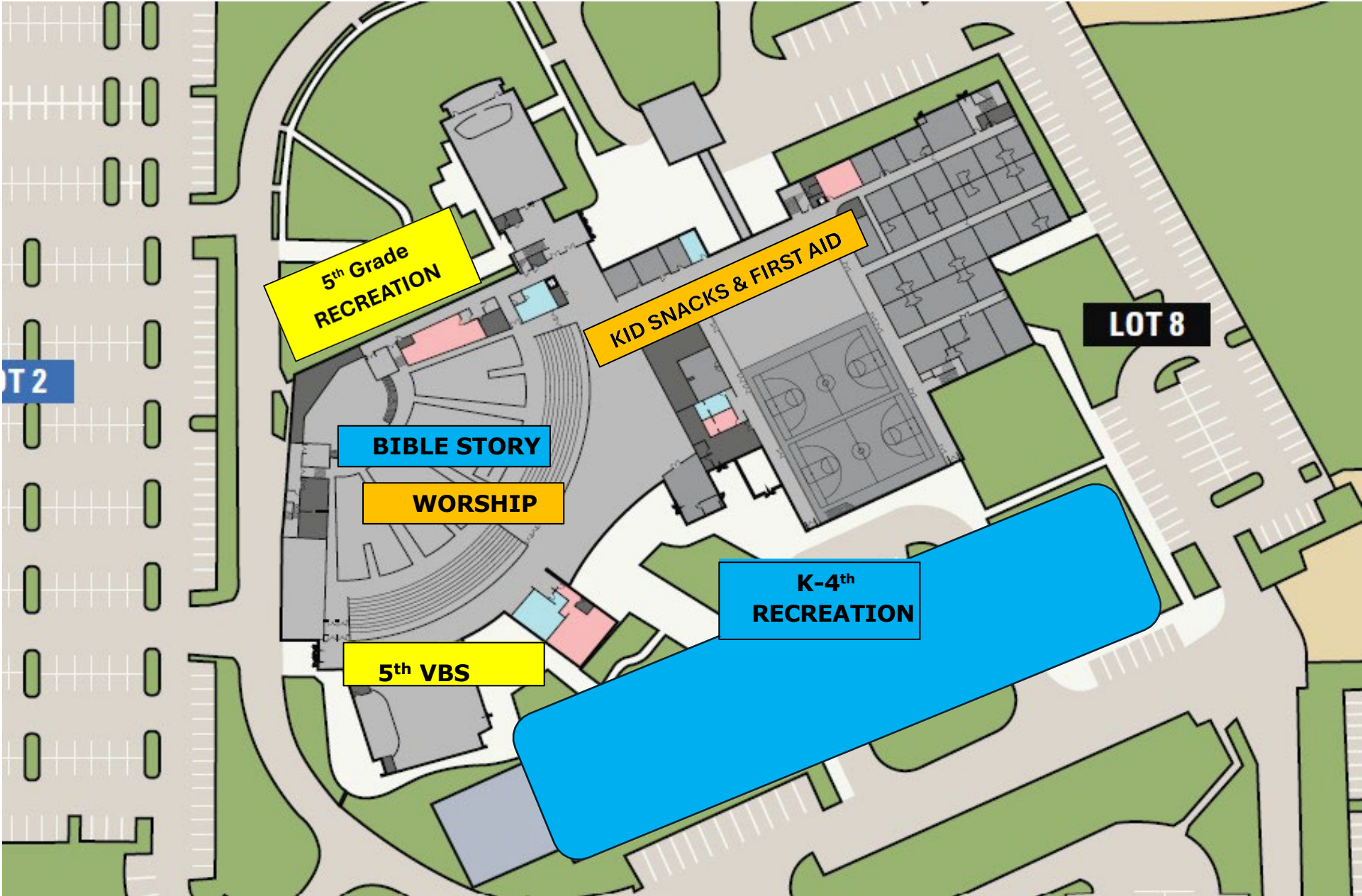
## **Wrap-Up | Classroom**

Help the kids collect their items, cover announcements, and prepare for dismissal.

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# VBS AREAS

Specific to Kinder-4<sup>th</sup>; Specific to 5<sup>th</sup>; For All Grades



# TRANSITION FLOWS

Moving 2,000 people through the building is no easy matter. Please honor this plan as you complete your first rotation, even if it is a long way for your group. See the legend for details.

## LEGEND



Do NOT enter:  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Area



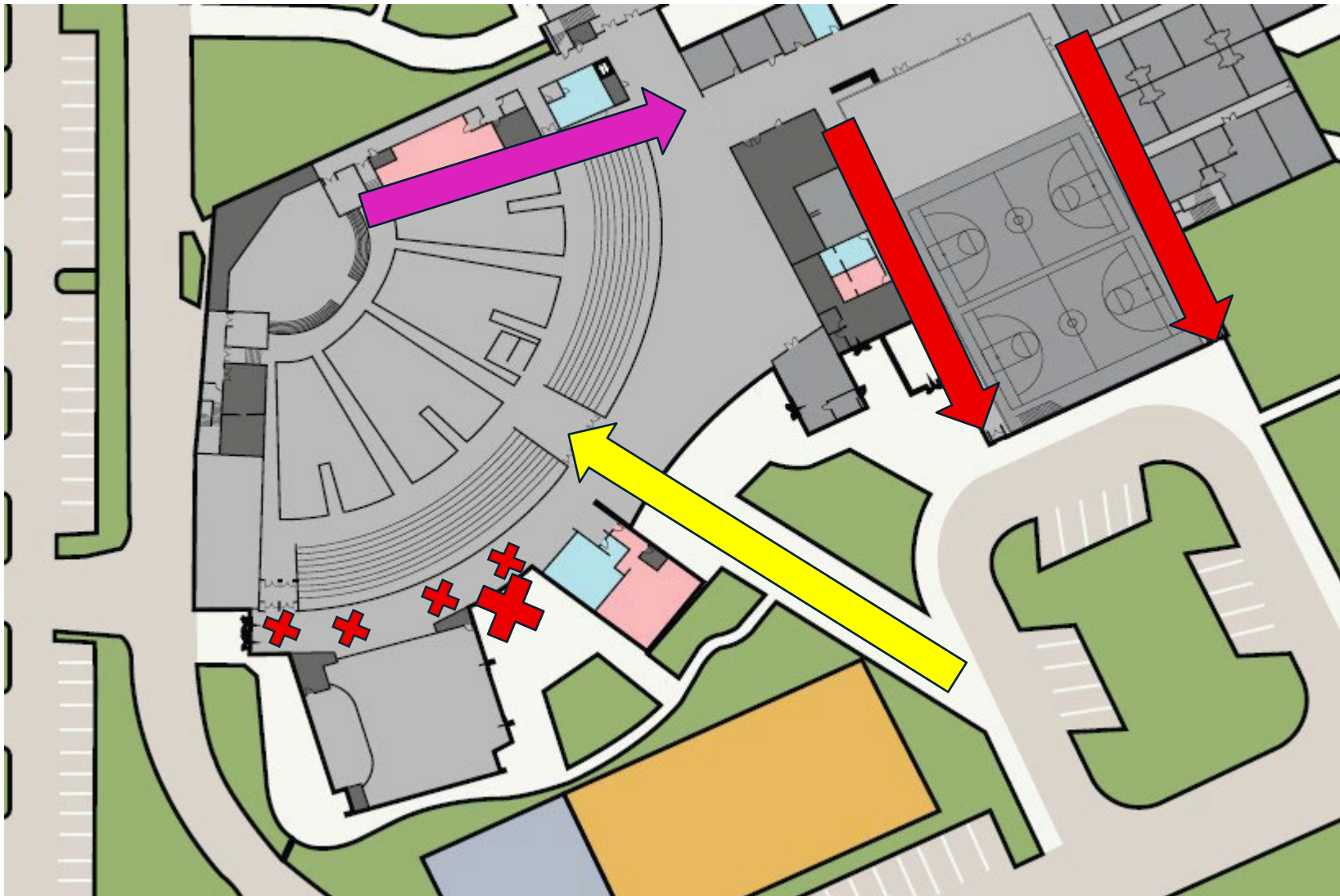
ENTER  
Recreation down  
these two halls



EXIT  
Recreation, enter  
Bible Story  
through these  
doors ONLY



EXIT  
Bible Story  
through these  
doors ONLY



# the **GOSPEL**

## **GOD'S PLAN FOR ME**

gos·pel – *noun*. good news. the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



Gold

### **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*

*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."—Genesis 1:1*



Dark

### **WE SINNED.**

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. *Romans 3:23; 6:23*

*"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."—Romans 3:23*



Red

### **GOD PROVIDED.**

God sent 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*

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."—John 3:16*



White

### **JESUS GIVES.**

He 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; Ephesians 2:8-9*

*"God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."—Romans 5:8*



### **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*

*"If you admit with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."—Romans 10:9*



## RAINFOREST FALLS VBS OVERVIEW

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>BIBLE STORY</b>	<p>God creates the world.</p> <p>Genesis 1</p>	<p>David celebrates all God knows.</p> <p>Psalm 139</p>	<p>Jesus dies and comes back to life to show God's love.</p> <p>Luke 22:39-24:12</p>	<p>David hides from Saul.</p> <p>1 Samuel 23-24</p>
<b>BIBLE POINT</b>	God is our creator.	God knows everything.	God is love.	God is our safe place.
<b>BIBLE VERSE</b>	<p>"Praise the Lord, everything He has created, everything in all his kingdom.</p> <p>Psalm 103:22</p>	<p>"O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me."</p> <p>Psalm 139:1</p>	<p>"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His faithful love endures forever."</p> <p>Psalm 136:1</p>	<p>"Then I pray to you, O Lord, I say you are my place of refuge."</p> <p>Psalm 142:5</p>
<b>BIBLE BUDDY</b>	<b>TANGO</b> The Quetzal	<b>SEYMOUR</b> The Glass Frog	<b>TIA</b> The Giant Anteater	<b>DOTTIE</b> The Ocelot
<b>IMAGINATION STATION</b>	Magnificent Magnifiers	Rain Reveal Cards	Wordless Gospel Craft/Activity	Flutter flies
<b>SNACK</b>	Lays Chips	Goldfish	Veggie Straws	Cookies



## ELEMENTARY ROTATION SCHEDULES

	<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>5th</b>
<b>0900 – 0910</b>	Welcome	Welcome	Welcome	Welcome	Welcome	<b>GOTO THE STUDENT BUILDING</b>
<b>0910 – 0915</b>	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	
<b>0915 – 0945</b>	Imagination Station & Snack	Recreation 9:15-9:40	Bible Story	Recreation 9:15-9:40	Bible Story	
<b>0945 – 0950</b>	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	
<b>0950 – 1020</b>	Recreation 9:50-10:15	Bible Story	Imagination Station & Snack	Bible Story	Imagination Station & Snack	
<b>1020 – 1025</b>	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	
<b>1025 – 1055</b>	Bible Story & Bathroom	Imagination Station & Snack	Recreation 10:25-10:50	Imagination Station & Snack	Recreation 10:25-10:50	
<b>1055 – 1100</b>	Break	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	
<b>1100 – 1145</b>	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	
<b>1145 – 1150</b>	11:40 go to room	Transition	Transition	Transition	Transition	
<b>1150 – 1200</b>	Wrap-Up	Wrap-Up	Wrap-Up	Wrap-Up	Wrap-Up	

# FIRST DAY PROCESSES

First Day, June 8th:

Be in your classroom at 8:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday:

Children of leaders, Birth to 5-year-old can be dropped off at 8:30 a.m.

Children of leaders, who have completed Kinder through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, can head to their class at 8:40 a.m.

## **DO NOT RECEIVE NON-VOLUNTEER KIDS BEFORE 8:45 a.m.**

- Check-in Procedures – Children will check-in and check-out of your room each day. Pre-registered children will receive an email the night before VBS with their classroom assignments. Room rosters & campus maps will be posted throughout the building.
- Check children in as they arrive; all the items needed will be in your gray tub. NOTE: you will have 1 copy of your roll. The white copy will remain with you always. The group Point of Contact (POC) will take role at the link that will be texted each morning to his/her phone. Please check in all leaders and children. The printed one is backup in the event our system is down.
- Verify that each child is on your roll sheet by checking their name off; if they are not on the roll sheet, they **must go** downstairs to register or give you a YELLOW card verifying they have been registered and are in the correct group.
- Give each child your designated wristband, as well as an allergy band if applicable.
- Remind parents that Kinder-4th **must be picked up by an adult or older sibling**. Hand each parent their pick-up code and encourage them to take a picture of it to share with other authorized adults or in case they lose the card. Also, only 5th graders are dismissed on their own and should identify a meeting location or pick-up plan.
- Fill out the name tag and instruct the child that it must be worn at all times.

## Tuesday-Thursday New Student Process:

New students should check in at the downstairs registration table. After they register, they will be given a **YELLOW card** to bring with them to class. This card will indicate that they should be added to your roll by handwriting their name on your roll sheet. The pickup code should be on it, so encourage the parent to take a picture of the card before leaving if a note card was not provided at registration.

## **DO NOT RECEIVE A CHILD WHO IS NOT ON YOUR ROLL SHEET!!!**

## God is our creator.

**Bible Verse:** “Praise the Lord, everything he has created, everything in all his kingdom.” (Psalm 103:22)

**Bible Story:** God creates the world. (Genesis 1)

Genesis 1 launches the ultimate origin story—no capes, no gadgets, just God’s unstoppable creative power! With just a command, he fills the emptiness with light, land, and life. Imagine—no tools, no materials, just God’s voice shaping the universe! Though the sun and moon don’t appear until day four, light already shines from day one, proving God doesn’t rely on the sun to illuminate his creation. And here’s something amazing: The Hebrew word *bara*, meaning “create,” describes only what *God* does. No one else creates from nothing! After forming the oceans, mountains, and every creature, God saves his most treasured work for last—people. God crafts them, unlike anything else, in his image, designed for a deep and personal connection with God. Every child reflects the artistry of the ultimate Creator!

Kids often hear they need to *make* something of themselves—be smarter, cooler, more successful. But Scripture flips that script. Before kids ever tried to prove their worth, God already designed them with purpose and love. That truth changes everything! Kids don’t need to chase approval or compete for value; they already matter because the Creator of the universe formed them intentionally, in his own image. Wow—imagine walking with confidence, knowing you belong, hold value, and have been created for something extraordinary! Plus, every day we get to enjoy reminders of God’s ongoing creative work through sunshine, trees, and even rain! Today, take joy in showing kids God’s creative nature! Remind kids that, as people, they’re God’s “very good” creation.



### Why It Matters

Celebrate! God—*the* intentional, master Creator—lovingly made each part of creation...including us! Kids can find confidence in knowing they’re crafted by God’s ingenious design.

## Before You Enter the Jungle

- Hang the Question-of-the-Day Poster near or on a corner of the butcher paper. Each day every child will add a sticker to represent their vote on the Question-of-the-Day.
- Set out the die-cut shapes for God Sightings.
- Have the magnifying glasses ready for your IMAGINATION STATION portion of the morning.
- Organize the day's supplies on the table for easy access and store the remaining supplies under the table.

### TREE TIP

During the huddle and a prayer time before Rainforest Falls, let Leaders know they'll need their phones handy today for Imagination Station.

### Prepare and Set out:

- Lanyards, name tags, & wristbands to access quickly upon check-in.
- Pick-up Code Notecards should be ready. Encourage the parent to take a picture of the card to share with other authorized adults or in case they lose it. The parent will need to show/say this code to release the child to him/her at pickup or an ID will be required to be checked by the Creek Kids staff.
- Have the VBS Activity Booklets out on the tables with crayons, markers, and/or pencils. Be sure to write each child's name on his/her booklet. They will use this for the duration of VBS week.

### Prepare your clipboard: (this should stay with you at all times)

- Hand sign, roll sheet, extra wristbands, Volunteer Manual
- Class Roster with listed allergies and pick-up codes.



EVERY DAY SUPPLIES PROVIDED	SUPPLIES PROVIDED FOR MONDAY
Die Cut Shapes for God-Sightings Frog/Butterfly Stickers for Question-of-the-Day GOSPEL POSTER w/ 5 Velcro Pieces VBS Arrival Activity Booklet Crayons/Markers/Pencils Sandwich-size plastic baggies for Take-Home notes & items Fine-tipped Permanent markers (for leader use only) Paper Towels, Wipes, Hand Sanitizer Decision Forms and Gospel Booklet Name Tags, Tag holders, lanyards VBS Donation Baggies	MONDAY: Question-of-the-Day Printout MONDAY POSTERS: Bible Verse Poster, Bible Point Poster, & Buddy Poster Magnify Glass for each child Extra Activities to fill any time gaps (in back of Volunteer Manual)

## Welcome

### LEADER NOTES

Some suggestions on roles as children arrive:

- An adult Leader should greet each child and check present on the Roll-Sheet
- Assign someone to get the child's name tag and wristband on them
- Youth Leaders can engage each child with the Question-of-the-Day & VBS Activity Booklet.

As the children walk in, check each off on your roll sheet (and take roll on phone), place the lanyard with their name tag around their neck, place the wristband on their wrist (add the teal one too if the child has an allergy), and direct them to the QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY. (Also, words in **BOLD** are for you to say if that is helpful.)

Once a child is checked in, ask the child to vote on the QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY.

### QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY

**Every day you'll get to answer a fun QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY. You'll vote for your answer in a special way.**

**Would you rather have a pet pink river dolphin or a pet black spider monkey?**

**If you would rather have a dolphin, add a butterfly to our RAINFOREST SCENE. If a spider monkey, add a frog.**

After the child has voted, direct him/her to the VBS Activity Booklet on the tables. (Write the child's name on his/her booklet; he/she will use it all week)

**By 9 a.m. if not sooner, you want to be gathered in a huddle or circle on the floor to review the QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY and transition into God Sightings.**

Review the question of the day with the children, pointing out which answer received more votes, and then prompt them to do the following:

**If you would rather have a dolphin, pretend to jump out of the water like a dolphin! If you'd rather have a monkey, pose like a monkey.**

**Ready, Go!**

**We're going to have FUN answering our QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY and adding frogs and butterflies to remind us of the nature of our God.**

**Now, before we get to our first rotation, let's talk about God Sightings and add more to our scene.**

## GOD SIGHTINGS

**Looking around at all of God's creation can help us remember that God is real. God wasn't just doing things in the Bible. God is busy right here and now, at Cottonwood Creek!**

**This week, you'll practice looking for what God is doing. We call those God Sightings. God Sightings help our faith in God grow stronger because we see that God still is works today.**

**A God Sighting could be a beautiful sunset or sunrise, a hug from a friend, or encouragement from your leader! Each morning, you get to pick a cutout to add to our Rainforest Scene by writing your God Sightings on it and taping it in place! Who already has a God Sighting to share today and add to our Rainforest Scene?**

For Younger kids, write their answer on a cutout and tape it on the Rainforest Scene butcher paper. For older kids, let them write their God sighting on the cutout and tape it on the Rainforest Scene butcher paper themselves.

**PREPARE TO ROTATE TO YOUR NEXT ROTATION.**

## IMAGINATION STATION

As the children walk in, have the group sit together on the floor.

Engage in our GOSPEL poster activity. The IMAGINATION STATION activity should follow this and be a fun reinforcement of our daily Bible lesson and point of the day. Choose to have snack anytime within this time slot.

We have selected the most hands-on activity for you to do with your group, however there are EXTRA activities provided to ensure your group always has something to do. Take time to focus on connecting with your kids, as well as helping the kids connect with each other. (Also, words in **BOLD** are for you to say if that is helpful.)

### GOSPEL POSTER



**God loves you so much! GOSPEL means Good News. God sent His son Jesus to save us...that was indeed GOOD NEWS and an act to show JUST HOW MUCH GOD LOVES EACH OF US!**

**LOOK at this Gospel Poster. Let's put the pieces on it.**

- **The crown reminds us that God Rules, He created everything, even you and me, and He is in charge of everything.**  
*Motion to do together: place hands in a circle over you, as though setting a crown on your head.*
- **Next is the X. It represents our sin—Sin is anything we THINK (point to head), Say (point to mouth), or DO (put your right fist on your left palm) that disobeys God. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death.**  
*Motion to do together: Hold both arms in front of you making a large X with your forearms.*
- **However, the Cross reminds us that God provided the perfect solution to our sin problem AND rescues us from the punishment we deserve. God's solution was sending Jesus, the perfect Gift.** *Motion to do together: Turn your X into a cross by rotating your arms.*
- **See the Gift picture? Jesus lived on earth perfectly, 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. How do we receive this gift?**  
*Motion to do together: Hold hands together in front of you as though handing someone a gift.*

- The **Hands** show us that we respond by believing in our heart that Jesus alone saves through what He **ALREADY** did on the cross! Turn from sin—Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *Motion to do together: Raise both hands into the air in celebration and praise.*

Anytime this week, you can pray with a leader if you want to make Jesus your Savior. Tell God you know you sin, and you have faith Jesus came and died for your sins. Tell Jesus you want to follow Him.

**It would be great if each child had this poster memorized by the end of VBS!**

Let's pray friends. Gracious Father, thank for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to die for our sins, paying what we could not pay. Help each of us learn more about you and to trust Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.

Okay, now, let's learn about the nature of God in a fun activity.

## Magnificent Magnifiers

**SAY**

Let's take a closer look at some things God made and notice their details. Sometimes we need tools like microscopes or magnifying glasses to help us see things that are too tiny to see with just our eyes. Even our phones can help! Let's see what else we can discover by looking up close at real pieces of the natural things around us!

### FIELD TEST FINDING

We originally had kids use little magnifying glasses to explore the details in leaves and flowers, but kid friendly (and cost-effective) magnifiers couldn't get the same detail that a phone could. Once a leader brought out a phone and zoomed in, kids all wanted to take a close-up look!

Pass out a magnifying glass to each child.

Have Leaders get out the leaves and other nature items and work together to examine nature items through the magnifying glasses.

Now, have Leaders use their phone cameras to zoom in and help the children make even more observations.

Gather the group together to pull the lesson altogether by asking:

**ASK**

Tell me some things you noticed.

Listen and affirm the children's observations.

**SAY**

Psalm 139:1 says, "O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me."

**ASK** You just examined God's creation. How do you think that's like—or maybe *not* like—the way God examines and knows you? (This is a thinking question that may take a moment for kids to ponder and consider. That's OK! Give kids time to make surprising faith connections.)

**SAY** God doesn't need a magnifying glass to see the tiny details about us!

We have so much more to learn, but we'll never know as much as God, because God is creator. (*Wow, God!*) And since He created YOU, He knows all the details about you!

I'm so glad all you special scientists were able to join me today and explore the tiniest parts of God's creation!

**SAY** Let's pray together before moving to our next rotation. Would someone like to pray for us thanking God for creating us and all the items in nature? See if a child would like to volunteer, if not, have a leader lead the group in a short prayer of thanksgiving.

Place the Magnifying glasses in the Take Home Baggies, with the summary of our day, for your students to take home at the end of our day together.

**PREPARE TO ROTATE TO YOUR NEXT ROTATION.**

## WRAP-UP

**Have kids gather either at their tables or on the floor. This is a great time to review scripture memory and make announcements / reminders and pass out the take items from of the day.**

**We've had a great first day at RAINFOREST FALLS...EXPLORING THE NATURE OF GOD! Before we say goodbye, we need to collect the name badges and put them in the designated spot.**

Select a youth leader to collect the badges and put them in the designated spot.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. If you purchase a BRAVE shirt, please make sure and wear it Thursday for pictures.
2. We are collecting donations as part of our mission's emphasis at VBS. We are supporting VBS and the impact it has on our community. The donations will go towards VBS and reaching the families that are searching for a new church home. The grade who brings in the most donations wins a special treat on Thursday. **PASS OUT THE DONATION BAGGIES TO EACH KID TO BRING BACK TOMORROW.**
3. **VBS BAPTISM CELEBRATION – THURSDAY NIGHT 6/11 AT 6PM!** Join us as we worship & have baptisms! Individuals participating in baptisms need to arrive at 5 p.m. in the Worship Center.
4. Cottonwood Creek will also still host Hawaiian Waters Family Day on JULY 24<sup>TH</sup> (Friday) with baptisms at 6pm in The Colony.
5. Take home your activities from today.
6. Be sure to share what you learned each day with your friends and family!

### **Kinder-4<sup>th</sup> graders:**

MUST be picked up by an adult or an older sibling, WITH the SECURITY code.

### **5<sup>th</sup> graders:**

self-release no earlier than NOON.

**LEADERS, please take a few minutes once the children have been picked up and look over the next day's lesson. Lay out anything needed to help prepare for the day.**

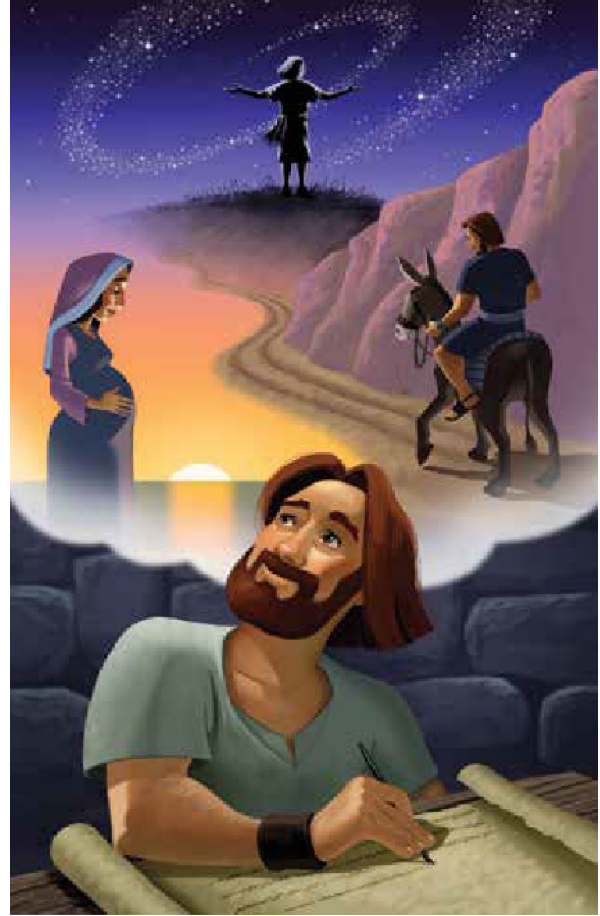
## God knows everything.

**Bible Verse:** “O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.” (Psalm 139:1)

**Bible Story:** David celebrates all God knows. (Psalm 139)

Psalm 139 gives us a front-row seat to David’s heart as he wrestles with the incredible truth that God knows everything about him—his thoughts, his actions, even the words he hasn’t spoken yet! As a young shepherd, David spent years alone in the fields, unseen by people but fully known by God. Later, as a fugitive running from King Saul, he hid in caves yet always stayed in God’s watchful care. Even as king, when David made terrible mistakes, God still saw and pursued him. David understood both the comfort and the weight of being fully known by a God who never loses sight of his people. He described God’s knowledge as both mind-blowing (“too great for me to understand”) and deeply personal (“You know my thoughts”). God doesn’t just see us; he intimately knows every detail of our hearts.

The kids coming to your program live in a world that constantly watches them—safety monitors, social media posts, school expectations, even AI-driven content telling them who they should be. In spite of all that attention, many kids still feel unseen, unknown, or misunderstood. Psalm 139 reassures kids that God doesn’t just watch them like an algorithm tracking clicks. God knows their hearts, like a loving Father. God sees their struggles, their dreams, their quiet worries...and God cares. For children wrestling with comparison or anxiety, this truth brings peace. Help kids find rest in discovering that no burden or worry is hidden from our faithful God.



### Why It Matters

Be encouraged! Kids never have to feel unknown or unseen. God knows every detail of their lives and promises to always love them.

## Before You Enter the Jungle

- Hang the Question-of-the-Day Poster near or on a corner of the butcher paper. Each day every child will add a sticker to represent their vote on the Question-of-the-Day
- Set out the die-cut shapes for God Sightings.
- Set out the Rain Reveal Cards, dixie cups, water, q-tips, and paper towels
- Organize the day's supplies on the table for easy access and store the remaining supplies under the table.

### Prepare and Set out:

- Lanyards, name tags, & wristbands to access quickly upon check-in.
- Pick-up Code Notecards should be ready. Encourage the parent to take a picture of the card to share with other authorized adults or in case they lose it. The parent will need to show/say this code to release the child to him/her at pickup or an ID will be required to be checked by the Creek Kids staff.
- Have the VBS Activity Booklets out on the tables with crayons, markers, and/or pencils. Be sure to write each child's name on his/her booklet. They will use this for the duration of VBS week.

### Prepare your clipboard: (this should stay with you at all times)

- Hand sign, roll sheet, extra wristbands, Volunteer Manual
- Class Roster with listed allergies and pick-up codes.

EVERY DAY SUPPLIES PROVIDED	SUPPLIES PROVIDED FOR TUESDAY
Die Cut Shapes for God-Sightings Frog/Butterfly Stickers for Question-of-the-Day GOSPEL POSTER w/ 5 Velcro Pieces VBS Arrival Activity Booklet Crayons/Markers/Pencils Sandwich-size plastic baggies for Take-Home note & items Fine-tipped Permanent markers (for leader use only) Paper Towels, Wipes, Hand Sanitizer Decision Forms and Gospel Booklet Name Tags, Tag holders, lanyards VBS Donation Baggies	TUESDAY: Question-of-the-Day Printout TUESDAY POSTERS: Bible Verse Poster, Bible Point Poster, & Buddy Poster Rain Reveal Cards Dixie Cups Water Q-tips Extra Activities to fill any time gaps (in back of Volunteer Manual)

## Welcome

### LEADER NOTES

Some suggestions on roles as children arrive:

- An adult Leader should greet each child and check present on the Roll-Sheet
- Assign someone to get the child's name tag and wristband on them
- Youth Leaders can engage each child with the Question-of-the-Day & VBS Activity Booklet.

As the children walk in, check each off on your roll sheet (and take roll on phone), place the lanyard with their name tag around their neck, place the wristband on their wrist (add the teal one too if the child has an allergy), and direct them to the QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY. (Also, words in **BOLD** are for you to say if that is helpful.)

Once a child is checked in, ask the child to vote on the QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY.

### QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY

**Every day you'll get to answer a fun QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY. You'll vote for your answer in a special way.**

**Would you rather see under waterfalls or have rainforest night vision ?**

**If you would rather see under waterfalls, add a butterfly to our RAINFOREST SCENE. If you would rather have rainforest night vision, add a frog.**

After the child has voted, direct him/her to the VBS Activity Booklet on the tables. (Write the child's name on his/her booklet; he/she will use it all week)

**By 9 a.m. if not sooner, you want to be gathered in a huddle or circle on the floor to review the QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY and transition into God Sightings.**

Review the question of the day with the children, pointing out which answer received more votes, and then prompt them to do the following:

**If you'd rather see under a waterfall, put on your pretend goggles. If you'd rather have night vision, open your eyes really wide!**

**I think the winner is...** Announce which choice you think got more votes.

**We can't see under a waterfall or have night vision right now, but today we'll explore things we *can* see in the rainforest!**

**We're going to have FUN answering our QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY and adding frogs and butterflies to remind us of the nature of our God.**

**Now, before we get to our first rotation, let's talk about God Sightings.**

## GOD SIGHTINGS

**We can learn a lot about who God is by looking at...** (motion around you) **God's nature. As we learn more about God, it helps if we keep our eyes and ears open to see what God is doing every day. We don't see God the same way I see** [a few kids or leaders in the audience]. **But we *can* see what God does! We call those God Sightings.**

Share a God Sighting about one of your favorite things in nature.

**In the Bible, David wrote so many wonderful things God did. We can do that, too! Listen!**

Read the verse from Psalm 9:1: **"I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all the marvelous things you have done."**

**God Sightings are sort of a way to give God credit for something only he could do!** Take turns sharing about something in nature that shows you God's creativity. **As you share, write our God Sightings on a cutout to add to our Rainforest Scene by writing your God Sightings on it and taping it in place!**

Make sure everyone has a chance to share.

For Younger kids, write their answer on a cutout and tape it on the Rainforest Scene butcher paper. For older kids, let them write their God sighting on the cutout and tape it on the Rainforest Scene butcher paper themselves.

**PREPARE TO ROTATE TO YOUR NEXT ROTATION.**

## IMAGINATION STATION

As the children walk in, have the group sit together on the floor.

Engage in our GOSPEL poster activity. The IMAGINATION STATION activity should follow this and be a fun reinforcement of our daily Bible lesson and point of the day. Choose to have snack anytime within this time slot.

We have selected the most hands-on activity for you to do with your group, however there are EXTRA activities provided to ensure your group always has something to do. Take time to focus on connecting with your kids, as well as helping the kids connect with each other. (Also, words in **BOLD** are for you to say if that is helpful.)

### GOSPEL POSTER



**God loves you so much! GOSPEL means Good News. God sent His son Jesus to save us...that was indeed GOOD NEWS and an act to show JUST HOW MUCH GOD LOVES EACH OF US!**

**LOOK at this Gospel Poster. Let's put the pieces on it.**

- **The crown reminds us that God Rules, He created everything, even you and me, and He is in charge of everything.**  
*Motion to do together: place hands in a circle over you, as though setting a crown on your head.*
- **Next is the X. It represents our sin—Sin is anything we THINK (point to head), Say (point to mouth), or DO (put your right fist on your left palm) that disobeys God. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death.**  
*Motion to do together: Hold both arms in front of you making a large X with your forearms.*
- **However, the Cross reminds us that God provided the perfect solution to our sin problem AND rescues us from the punishment we deserve. God's solution was sending Jesus, the perfect Gift. Motion to do together: Turn your X into a cross by rotating your arms.**
- **See the Gift picture? Jesus lived on earth perfectly, 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. How do we receive this gift?**  
*Motion to do together: Hold hands together in front of you as though handing someone a gift.*

- The **Hands** show us that we respond by believing in our heart that Jesus alone saves through what He **ALREADY** did on the cross! Turn from sin—Tell God and others that **your faith is in Jesus**. *Motion to do together: Raise both hands into the air in celebration and praise.*

Anytime this week, you can pray with a leader if you want to make Jesus your Savior. Tell God you know you sin, and you have faith Jesus came and died for your sins. Tell Jesus you want to follow Him.

**It would be great if each child had this poster memorized by the end of VBS!**

Let's pray friends. Gracious Father, thank for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to die for our sins, paying what we could not pay. Help each of us learn more about you and to trust Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.

Okay, now, let's learn about the nature of God in a fun activity.

## Rain Reveal Cards

**ASK** Call out some things that come to mind when you picture the rainforest.

Welcome responses for about 10 seconds.

**SAY SAY SAY SAY** When I picture the rainforest, I think of the huge, tall trees. Those make our rainforest so nice and shady. So let's draw big, huge trees! Give each person a Rain Reveal Card, along with a pencil.

**Draw on the side that's less shiny.**

Allow time for everyone to draw large trees. Compliment them on their drawings.

**Those trees are big and easy to see, but if we don't look closer, there's a whole world we might miss out on!**

**Let me show you what I mean.**

Dip a Q-tip in water and use it to begin to color in your card.

### FIELD TEST FINDING

At our field test, we wanted to keep drawings open-ended. But some kids ended up trying to trace the faint shapes they could see on the card, and others drew small things like bugs. It's important that kids draw something that's big so it contrasts with the small thing they'll reveal—so keep reminding them to draw trees!

## FIELD TEST FINDINGS

When our Station Leader demonstrated how to reveal the picture, there was a collective gasp as kids saw the colors show up! By demonstrating the experiment first, you model how to do it, but you also generate excitement as kids realize *they* get to try it, too!

Give each group a cup of water and each person a Q-tip. Have everyone dip the Q-tip in a cup of water and then rub the Q-tip all over their drawings.

A different picture will appear on each card! Let the children compare pictures.

**ASK** **Tell me something you see on your card now that you couldn't see before.**

**SAY** **Wow! There are all kinds of tiny things on your cards! Some of you have ants—did you know there are 100 different species of ants in the rainforest? That's a lot of kinds of ants!**

**I see moss and nearly invisible spiderwebs catching the light!**

**And don't miss out on insects like the rainbow grasshopper, the leafhopper nymph, and the glasswing butterfly!**

**All these things wouldn't show up if you looked at a drone picture of a rainforest—they're too small! But God knows everything. (Wow, God!) He sees the tiny little details in the rainforest—and the tiny details in our hearts.**

Let the children compare pictures.

**SAY** **Let's pray together before moving to our next rotation. Would someone like to pray for us thanking God knowing everything?** See if a child would like to volunteer, if not, have a leader lead the group in a short prayer of thanksgiving.

Place the Rain Reveal Cards in the Take Home Baggies, with the summary of our day, for your students to take home at the end of our day together.

**PREPARE TO ROTATE TO YOUR NEXT ROTATION.**

## WRAP-UP

**Have kids gather either at their tables or on the floor. This is a great time to review scripture memory and make announcements / reminders and pass out the take items from of the day.**

**WOW, two days in on RAINFOREST FALLS...EXPLORING THE NATURE OF GOD! Before we say goodbye, we need to collect the name badges and put them in the designated spot.**

Select a youth leader to collect the badges and put them in the designated spot.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. If you purchase a BRAVE shirt, please make sure and wear it Thursday for pictures.
2. We are collecting donations as part of our mission's emphasis at VBS. We are supporting VBS and the impact it has on our community. The donations will go towards VBS and reaching the families that are searching for a new church home. The grade who brings in the most donations wins a special treat on Thursday. **PASS OUT THE DONATION BAGGIES TO ANY KID THAT NEEDS ONE.**
3. **VBS BAPTISM CELEBRATION – THURSDAY NIGHT 6/11 AT 6PM!** Join us as we worship & have baptisms! Individuals participating in baptisms need to arrive at 5 p.m. in the Worship Center.
4. Cottonwood Creek will also still host Hawaiian Waters Family Day on JULY 24<sup>TH</sup> (Friday) with baptisms at 6pm in The Colony.
5. Take home your activities from today.
6. Be sure to share what you learned each day with your friends and family!

#### **Kinder-4<sup>th</sup> graders:**

MUST be picked up by an adult or an older sibling, WITH the SECURITY code.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> graders:**

self-release no earlier than NOON.

**LEADERS, please take a few minutes once the children have been picked up and look over the next day's lesson. Lay out anything needed to help prepare for the day.**

## God is love.

**Bible Verse:** “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.” (Psalm 136:1)

**Bible Story:** Jesus dies and comes to life to show God’s love. (Luke 22:39–24:12)

God’s creativity and magnificent design didn’t end with creating the world. One might even say that God’s plan to reveal the greatest act of love began at the Garden of Eden. God’s Son, Jesus, came to earth—fulfilling a staggering 300 Old Testament prophecies! The passage begins in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus, fully aware of the pain ahead, chooses to follow God’s plan. Jesus’ love wasn’t just a feeling; it was a choice that cost him everything. Where betrayal and arrest might have stirred up emotions of anger, Jesus showed only love. Instead of fighting or fleeing, he carried the cross and gave his life, demonstrating the power of God’s love for humanity. Three days later, in the most astonishing moment of all, the tomb stood empty—Jesus conquered death! God showed that his love is more powerful than anything.

Kids hear mixed messages about love. Songs say it’s about feelings. Influencers claim that popularity equals love. And people may argue, “If you loved me, you’d...” But Jesus reveals a different kind of love—one that’s selfless, sacrificial, and unshakable. Jesus didn’t love based on who deserved it; he loved because *that’s who he is*. What a gift to know that we’re fully loved—not because we’re perfect, but simply



### Why It Matters

Be amazed! Jesus demonstrated that God’s love is selfless, unconditional, and powerful. Kids will gain a fresh perspective on what *true* love is, following God’s timeless definition.

because God is love. In a world that often defines love in shallow or conditional ways, the cross and the empty tomb remind kids what real love looks like—powerful, unstoppable, and forever! Today, help kids explore a God-focused definition of love that will change their lives for eternity.

## Before You Enter the Jungle

- Hang the Question-of-the-Day Poster near or on a corner of the butcher paper. Each day every child will add a sticker to represent their vote on the Question-of-the-Day
- Set out the die-cut shapes for God Sightings.
- Set out the supplies for today's Imagination Station.
- Designate a youth leader to lead the activities for IMAGINATION STATION while adults prepare to counsel children after hearing the gospel in Bible Study. Make sure the instructions make sense to this leader.
- Organize the day's supplies on the table for easy access and store the remaining supplies under the table.

### Prepare and Set out:

- Lanyards, name tags, & wristbands to access quickly upon check-in
- Pick-up Code Notecards should be ready. Encourage the parent to take a picture of the card to share with other authorized adults or in case they lose it. The parent will need to show/say this code to release the child to him/her at pickup or an ID will be required to be checked by the Creek Kids staff.
- Have the VBS Activity Booklets out on the tables with crayons, markers, and/or pencils. Be sure to write each child's name on his/her booklet. They will use this for the duration of VBS week.

### Prepare your clipboard: (this should stay with you at all times)

- Hand sign, roll sheet, extra wristbands, Volunteer Manual
- Class Roster with listed allergies and pick-up codes.

**In Bible Story**, the Gospel will be presented and a time for the kids to pray for salvation will be provided.

Please be prepared to follow-up during your Imagination Station time (1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>) with those that raise their hand during Bible Story. Other Gospel Counselors will be available too if you need assistance.

Kinder Leaders, we will have counselors available to you during Bible Story if any child has questions or is making a decision today.

EVERY DAY SUPPLIES PROVIDED	SUPPLIES PROVIDED FOR WEDNESDAY
Die Cut Shapes for God-Sightings	WEDNESDAY: Question-of-the-Day Printout
Frog/Butterfly Stickers for Question-of-the-Day	WEDNESDAY POSTERS:
GOSPEL POSTER w/ 5 Velcro Pieces	Bible Verse Poster, Bible Point Poster, & Buddy Poster
VBS Arrival Activity Booklet	Applesauce pouch
Crayons/Markers/Pencils	Paper Plate
Sandwich-size plastic baggies for Take-Home notes & items	Spoon
Fine-tipped Permanent markers (for leader use only)	Little pots, dirt, seeds
Paper Towels, Wipes, Hand Sanitizer	Decision Forms and Gospel Booklet
Decision Forms and Gospel Booklet	Extra Activities to fill any time gaps
Name Tags, Tag holders, lanyards	(in back of Volunteer Manual)
VBS Donation Baggies	

## Welcome

### LEADER NOTES

Some suggestions on roles as children arrive:

- An adult Leader should greet each child and check present on the Roll-Sheet
- Assign someone to get the child's name tag and wristband on them
- Youth Leaders can engage each child with the Question-of-the-Day & VBS Activity Booklet.

As the children walk in, check each off on your roll sheet (and take roll on phone), place the lanyard with their name tag around their neck, place the wristband on their wrist (add the teal one too if the child has an allergy), and direct them to the QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY. (Also, words in **BOLD** are for you to say if that is helpful.)

Once a child is checked in, ask the child to vote on the QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY.

### QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY

**Every day you'll get to answer a fun QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY. You'll vote for your answer in a special way.**

**Would you rather take a hike in the rainforest or fly over it in a helicopter?**

**If you would rather take a hike, add a butterfly to our RAINFOREST SCENE. If you would rather fly over it in a helicopter, add a frog.**

After the child has voted, direct him/her to the VBS Activity Booklet on the tables. (Write the child's name on his/her booklet; he/she will use it all week)

**By 9 a.m. if not sooner, you want to be gathered in a huddle or circle on the floor to review the QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY and transition into God Sightings.**

**Scientists have had a hard time exploring the canopy layer because it's so high up! Mostly we can explore the rainforest from the floor or from flying above it and looking down on it. So the question for you today is:**

**Would you rather take a hike in the rainforest or fly over it in a helicopter?**

**If you want to hike in the rainforest, walk in place. If you'd prefer a helicopter ride, wave your arms above your head like helicopter blades.**

**It looks like [pose with more votes] is the winner!**

**Now let's talk about God Sightings.**

## GOD SIGHTINGS

**When we see something interesting or surprising or beautiful, we want to get closer to it to learn more. God is all those things: interesting, surprising, and beautiful.**

**We can look closely at all God has made to learn more about him!**

**God also gave us people in our lives—friends, family members, neighbors, and teachers—who show us what God is like. These people are kind. They have surprising talents. They're loving.**

**For our God Sightings today, name people who show you what God is like.**

Share a God Sighting about one of your favorite people.

**As you share, write it on our cutout to add to our Rainforest Scene by writing your God Sightings on it and taping it in place!**

Make sure everyone has a chance to share.

For Younger kids, write their answer on a cutout and tape it on the Rainforest Scene butcher paper. For older kids, let them write their God sighting on the cutout and tape it on the Rainforest Scene butcher paper themselves.

**PREPARE TO ROTATE TO YOUR NEXT ROTATION.**

## IMAGINATION STATION: GOSPEL DAY

**KINDER LEADERS**, move straight to Gospel Poster and Activities.

**1st-4th:** Remind kids of the invitation in Bible Story to receive Jesus as their Savior. **“Bow your heads & close your eyes. If you raised your hand that you trust Jesus as Savior in Bible Story today for the first time, or if you want to do that now, raise your hand so I can see.”**

From here, separate the kids in 2 Groups and follow directions below; Fill out a Decision Card for each child you meet with, please:

### Group #1 – Salvation Decisions:

- **Let them confirm they believe in Jesus**
  - ✓ Keep it simple...they heard the gospel repeatedly
- ❖ *Ex: “Sally, do you trust in Jesus to be your savior?”*
  - ✓ Counsel individuals, as needed. Some may have questions, indicating they’re not ready
- **Pray aloud with them**
  - ✓ Allows them to “admit” Jesus to God and you:

#### Example Prayer: “Repeat after me...”

- ✓ *“God, I am a sinner.*
- ✓ *I need Jesus to save me.*
- ✓ *I believe Jesus died for me and rose again.*
- ✓ *I trust Jesus to be my Savior and Lord.”*
- ✓ *Amen.”*

*“If you admit with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”- Romans 10:9*

### Group #2 – All Others:

- (“No Decision” is OK) *“Maybe you aren’t ready to receive Jesus yet, and that’s OK for now...God loves you. We love you”*
- (Baptism Decision) *“Maybe you already trusted Jesus as savior, and you want to be baptized. Let us know”*
- Pray with the group
- Focus them on **Imagination Station** to keep from distracting **Group 1**
- Continue counseling others, as required

As each child finishes up in their group, have them join the activities below with the group. If a child has decided to trust Jesus as their Savior, ensure a Gospel Booklet goes home with him/her.

## IMAGINATION STATION

As the children walk in, have the group sit together on the floor.

Engage in our GOSPEL poster activity. The IMAGINATION STATION activity should follow this and be a fun reinforcement of our daily Bible lesson and point of the day. Choose to have snack anytime within this time slot.

We have selected the most hands-on activity for you to do with your group, however there are EXTRA activities provided to ensure your group always has something to do. Take time to focus on connecting with your kids, as well as helping the kids connect with each other. (Also, words in **BOLD** are for you to say if that is helpful.)

### GOSPEL POSTER



**God loves you so much! GOSPEL means Good News. God sent His son Jesus to save us...that was indeed GOOD NEWS and an act to show JUST HOW MUCH GOD LOVES EACH OF US!**

**LOOK at this Gospel Poster. Let's put the pieces on it.**

The crown reminds us that **God Rules, He created everything, even you and me, and He is in charge of everything.**

*Motion to do together: place hands in a circle over you, as though setting a crown on your head.*

Next is the X. It represents our **sin—Sin is anything we THINK (point to head), Say (point to mouth), or DO (put your right fist on your left palm) that disobeys God. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death.**

*Motion to do together: Hold both arms in front of you making a large X with your forearms.*

- However, the Cross reminds us that **God provided the perfect solution to our sin problem AND rescues us from the punishment we deserve. God's solution was sending Jesus, the perfect Gift.** *Motion to do together: Turn your X into a cross by rotating your arms.*

- See the Gift picture? **Jesus lived on earth perfectly, 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. How do we receive this gift?**

*Motion to do together: Hold hands together in front of you as though handing someone a gift.*

- The **Hands** show us that we respond by believing in our heart that Jesus alone saves through what He **ALREADY** did on the cross! Turn from sin—Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *Motion to do together: Raise both hands into the air in celebration and praise.*

**Anytime this week, you can pray with a leader if you want to make Jesus your Savior. Tell God you know you sin, and you have faith Jesus came and died for your sins. Tell Jesus you want to follow Him.**

**It would be great if each child had this poster memorized by the end of VBS!**

**Let's pray friends. Gracious Father, thank for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to die for our sins, paying what we could not pay. Help each of us learn more about you and to trust Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Okay, now, let's learn about the colors of a Wordless Book that we will see later in Bible Story Time by doing the following activities.

## Try to Undo Damage

**SAY:** All week we've been learning about the beautiful rainforests God made. But there's a problem: Sometimes humans cut down trees in the rainforest. And the rainforest is really important! So, people have tried planting more trees to undo the damage. Let's do a little experiment that will help us understand that better.

Get out a paper plate and an applesauce pouch. Squeeze out as much applesauce as you can onto the plate.

**SAY:** And now that the damage is done, let's try to undo it. See how much you can get back into the pouch.

Leaders can have kids come up one at a time and try to put the applesauce back in with a spoon.

**ASK:** Call out some words that describe how you felt trying to undo what you'd done. Has there ever been something you've done that you wish you could undo?

**SAY:** There's some damage we can't undo—sin. Sin is when we choose to do wrong things or choose not to do the good things God calls us to do. Sin destroys our friendship with God. We can't undo that damage—but because of Jesus, God can!

## See a Flower Grow

**SAY:** We CAN fix the damage done to the rainforest though! Researchers studied and found out that if there's a part of the rainforest we've cut down, and we leave it alone and don't do anything else to it, it will come back to life in 25-60 years—all on its own!

That reminds me of Jesus. He died but he came back to life! And God made rainforests to come back to life even after they've died.

We can still be careful and try not to destroy them, but it's cool to know that God takes such good care of His creation and made a way for rainforests to come back to life.

**SAY:** We can't undo the damage of sin on our own—but Jesus can heal and restore what's broken. Today we're going to plant something that reminds us of that truth.

Lay out the plastic on the floor or table. Pass out a small flower pot and the black, red, white, green, and yellow markers and crayons.

**SAY:** A tiny flower or seed can grow into something beautiful, just like a tree grows back in the rainforest. God brings life, growth, and restoration—which means He can fix what is broken or ruined in our lives too!

Today you'll decorate your flower pot using the colors of the Wordless Book. Each color tells an important part of God's story for us.

As kids decorate, explain the meaning of each color:

- **Black** reminds us of sin. Sin is anything we think, say, do or don't do our own way instead of God's way; it separates us from God.
- **Red** reminds us that Jesus shed His blood on the cross to take the punishment for our sin.
- **White** reminds us that Jesus washes our sins away and makes us clean when we trust in Him.
- **Green** reminds us to keep growing in our relationship with Jesus by praying, learning God's Word, and following Him.
- **Gold** reminds us of eternal life with God in Heaven.

When they are finished decorating their pot, have a leader put a scoop of dirt into each pot and give each child some seeds. Have them plant their seeds into their decorated pot.

Have wipes ready to clean hands.

**SAY:** Just like these flowers will need water, sunlight, and care to grow, our faith grows when we spend time with Jesus.

Allow time for kids to finish decorating and planting.

**ASK:** What do you think will happen to your flower over time?

Allow kids time to respond.

**SAY:** Jesus doesn't just cover up our sin—He gives us new life. Because God is love. (Wow, God!) Jesus died and came back to life so we could be forgiven and grow closer to Him every day.

Have each kid write their name on a plastic bag and place their finished flower pot into it to keep secure until dismissal.

**PREPARE TO ROTATE TO YOUR NEXT ROTATION.**

## WRAP-UP

**Have kids gather either at their tables or on the floor. This is a great time to review scripture memory and make announcements / reminders and pass out the take items from of the day.**

**WOW, two days in on RAINFOREST FALLS...EXPLORING THE NATURE OF GOD! Before we say goodbye, we need to collect the name badges and put them in the designated spot.**

Select a youth leader to collect the badges and put them in the designated spot.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. If you purchase a BRAVE shirt, please make sure and wear it tomorrow for pictures.
2. We are collecting donations as part of our mission's emphasis at VBS. We are supporting VBS and the impact it has on our community. The donations will go towards VBS and reaching the families that are searching for a new church home. The grade who brings in the most donations wins a special treat tomorrow. **PASS OUT THE DONATION BAGGIES TO ANY KID THAT NEEDS ONE.**
3. **VBS BAPTISM CELEBRATION – THURSDAY NIGHT 6/11 AT 6PM!** Join us as we worship & have baptisms! Individuals participating in baptisms need to arrive at 5 p.m. in the Worship Center.
4. Cottonwood Creek will also still host Hawaiian Waters Family Day on JULY 24<sup>TH</sup> (Friday) with baptisms at 6pm in The Colony.
5. Take home your activities from today.
6. Be sure to share what you learned each day with your friends and family!

### **Kinder-4<sup>th</sup> graders:**

MUST be picked up by an adult or an older sibling, WITH the SECURITY code.

### **5<sup>th</sup> graders:**

self-release no earlier than NOON.

**LEADERS, please take a few minutes once the children have been picked up and look over the next day's lesson. Lay out anything needed to help prepare for the day. ALSO, review the Volunteer Lunch and Clean-Up instructions in this manual before leaving today.**

## God is our safe place.

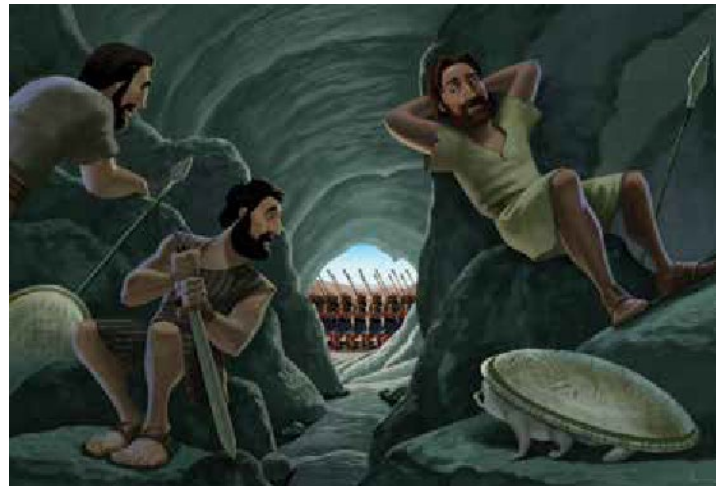
**Bible Verse:** “Then I pray to you, O Lord. I say, ‘You are my place of refuge.’” (Psalm 142:5)

**Bible Story:** David hides from Saul. (1 Samuel 23–24)

David’s life reads like an action-packed survival story. After being anointed as the future king, he suddenly found himself running for his life from King Saul. Forced to flee, David hid in the caves of Adullam, a rugged, rocky refuge southwest of Bethlehem. These caves, naturally formed in limestone cliffs, provided shelter and secrecy for someone on the run. But David’s caves weren’t small, cramped holes in the ground—they were large, deep systems, often used by travelers, shepherds, and even armies. God provided not just a *physical* refuge but also a community—David’s family and a band of 400 outcasts joined him! While caves and strongholds provided temporary shelter, David daily found his safety in the presence and promises of God.

Kids may not be running from a king, but many face battles that leave them feeling overwhelmed or unsafe. Whether it’s the pressure of school, struggles at home, or the weight of anxiety, kids need a refuge just like David. The good news? God still provides a safe place—not a cave or a hiding spot, but his rock-solid presence.

When everything around them feels uncertain, kids can trust that God understands, hears what’s spoken in their hearts, and stays with them. Just as God never abandoned David, God will never abandon us. While God never promises that we won’t face hardship, he *does* promise to be our shelter. Guide kids to find comfort when they turn to God as a refuge—a safe place for their hurting hearts.



### Why It Matters

Find comfort. God provided a safe place for David to hide from King Saul. Today, God provides a refuge for us, where our doubts, worries, fears, and hearts are safe with him.

## Before You Enter the Jungle

- Hang the Question-of-the-Day Poster near or on a corner of the butcher paper. Each day every child will add a sticker to represent their vote on the Question-of-the-Day
- Set out the die-cut shapes for God Sightings.
- Set out the Flutterflies.
- Decorate a Flutterfly and practice winding it up 35 times, holding it between your palms, then releasing it. Here's a tip: If you wind the wings in a counter-clockwise direction, the Flutterfly tends to fly up, rather than down.
- Organize the day's supplies on the table for easy access and store the remaining supplies under the table.

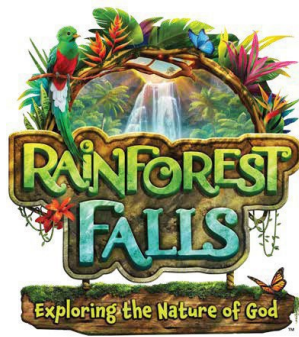
### Prepare and Set out:

- Lanyards, name tags, & wristbands to access quickly upon check-in
- Pick-up Code Notecards should be ready. Encourage the parent to take a picture of the card to share with other authorized adults or in case they lose it. The parent will need to show/say this code to release the child to him/her at pickup or an ID will be required to be checked by the Creek Kids staff.
- Have the VBS Activity Booklets out on the tables with crayons, markers, and/or pencils. Be sure to write each child's name on his/her booklet. They will use this for the duration of VBS week.

### Prepare your clipboard: (this should stay with you at all times)

- Hand sign, roll sheet, extra wristbands, Volunteer Manual
- Class Roster with listed allergies and pick-up codes.

EVERY DAY SUPPLIES PROVIDED	SUPPLIES PROVIDED FOR THURSDAY
Die Cut Shapes for God-Sightings Frog/Butterfly Stickers for Question-of-the-Day GOSPEL POSTER w/ 5 Velcro Pieces VBS Arrival Activity Booklet Crayons/Markers/Pencils Sandwich-size plastic baggies for Take-Home note & items Fine-tipped Permanent markers (for leader use only) Paper Towels, Wipes, Hand Sanitizer Decision Forms and Gospel Booklet Name Tags, Tag holders, lanyards VBS Donation Baggies	THURSDAY: Question-of-the-Day Printout THURSDAY POSTERS: Bible Verse Poster, Bible Point Poster, & Buddy Poster Printout of a Cocoon Flutterflies Extra Activities to fill any time gaps (in back of Volunteer Manual)



## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH

Please plan on joining us for a Leader Appreciation Lunch on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> immediately following VBS. We will have cheeseburgers, chips, and water for volunteers and their children in the back of the church in the circle drive with the Food Truck! This is generously being donated by Credit Union of Texas!

We want to say a **SUPER BIG THANK YOU** for making VBS successful!

### Clean Up Day – Instructions

**Let's leave things better than we found them please.**

- Please throw away ALL butcher paper, streamers, dried markers, etc. in the large trash bag provided.
- Please remove all tape, etc. from the walls and doors.
- Please safely remove and collect the pins used to hang things on the curtain walls. We would like to reuse these if possible.
- Please place any **decorations** (themed items) you would like to donate to the other churches (where VBS programs are later in the summer) between the two big trees downstairs. The items will be picked up at 1 p.m. today.
- Please return ALL **supplies**, gray tubs, extras, etc. to the designated spot on your floor.
  - Downstairs: between fish tank and 'Creek Kids Welcome Center'.
  - Upstairs: near A232
- Please place your trash bag outside your doorway.

Thank you very much for all your help this week. We truly appreciate ALL you have done to make this week successful; we couldn't have done it without you! **We would love to hear your feedback. Be on the lookout for an electronic survey coming to your email soon.** If you prefer a paper copy, please let us know!

## Welcome

### LEADER NOTES

Some suggestions on roles as children arrive:

- An adult Leader should greet each child and check present on the Roll-Sheet
- Assign someone to get the child's name tag and wristband on them
- Youth Leaders can engage each child with the Question-of-the-Day & VBS Activity Booklet.

As the children walk in, check each off on your roll sheet (and take roll on phone), place the lanyard with their name tag around their neck, place the wristband on their wrist (add the teal one too if the child has an allergy), and direct them to the QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY. (Also, words in **BOLD** are for you to say if that is helpful.)

Once a child is checked in, ask the child to vote on the QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY.

### QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY

**Every day you'll get to answer a fun QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY. You'll vote for your answer in a special way.**

**Would you rather live in a rainforest treehouse way up high or down on the ground in a cozy cave made out of branches, leaves, and vines?**

**If you would rather live in a treehouse, add a butterfly to our RAINFOREST SCENE. If you would rather live down in a cave, add a frog.**

After the child has voted, direct him/her to the VBS Activity Booklet on the tables. (Write the child's name on his/her booklet; he/she will use it all week)

**By 9 a.m. if not sooner, you want to be gathered in a huddle or circle on the floor to review the QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY and transition into God Sightings.**

**Today's QUESTION-OF-THE-DAY will help us start thinking about the different layers of the rainforest. Would you rather live in a rainforest treehouse way up high or down on the ground in a cozy cave made out of branches, leaves, and vines?**

**If you'd rather live in the treehouse, pose like a tree! If you'd rather live in a viny cave, hunker down into a little curled-up ball.**

Allow time for kids to vote.

Announce which choice you think is the winner.

**Now let's talk about God Sightings.**

## GOD SIGHTINGS

**Water and sun are such amazing parts of God's creation. They work together to keep things on Earth doing what they need to do! And they show us God's great plans and care for our world. We can see God's fingerprints in so many places!**

**When we take the time to notice all the ways God surrounds us, we see him at work every day!**

Share your own God Sighting about something related to water or sun, such as a rainbow, sunrise, or thunderstorm.

Now tell something about water or sunshine that shows how cool or awesome God is.

**As you share, write it on our cutout to add to our Rainforest Scene by writing your God Sightings on it and taping it in place!**

Make sure everyone has a chance to share.

For Younger kids, write their answer on a cutout and tape it on the Rainforest Scene butcher paper. For older kids, let them write their God sighting on the cutout and tape it on the Rainforest Scene butcher paper themselves.

LOOK at the scene you created this week!!! Celebrate with your group!

**PREPARE TO ROTATE TO YOUR NEXT ROTATION.**

## IMAGINATION STATION

As the children walk in, have the group sit together on the floor.

Engage in our GOSPEL poster activity. The IMAGINATION STATION activity should follow this and be a fun reinforcement of our daily Bible lesson and point of the day. Choose to have snack anytime within this time slot.

We have selected the most hands-on activity for you to do with your group, however there are EXTRA activities provided to ensure your group always has something to do. Take time to focus on connecting with your kids, as well as helping the kids connect with each other. (Also, words in **BOLD** are for you to say if that is helpful.)

### GOSPEL POSTER



**God loves you so much! GOSPEL means Good News. God sent His son Jesus to save us...that was indeed GOOD NEWS and an act to show JUST HOW MUCH GOD LOVES EACH OF US!**

**LOOK at this Gospel Poster. Let's put the pieces on it.**

- **The crown reminds us that God Rules, He created everything, even you and me, and He is in charge of everything.**  
*Motion to do together: place hands in a circle over you, as though setting a crown on your head.*
- **Next is the X. It represents our sin—Sin is anything we THINK (point to head), Say (point to mouth), or DO (put your right fist on your left palm) that disobeys God. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death.**  
*Motion to do together: Hold both arms in front of you making a large X with your forearms.*
- **However, the Cross reminds us that God provided the perfect solution to our sin problem AND rescues us from the punishment we deserve. God's solution was sending Jesus, the perfect Gift. Motion to do together: Turn your X into a cross by rotating your arms.**
- **See the Gift picture? Jesus lived on earth perfectly, 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. How do we receive this gift?**  
*Motion to do together: Hold hands together in front of you as though handing someone a gift.*

- The **Hands** show us that we respond by believing in our heart that Jesus alone saves through what He **ALREADY** did on the cross! Turn from sin—Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. *Motion to do together: Raise both hands into the air in celebration and praise.*

Anytime this week, you can pray with a leader if you want to make Jesus your Savior. Tell God you know you sin, and you have faith Jesus came and died for your sins. Tell Jesus you want to follow Him.

It would be great if each child had this poster memorized by the end of VBS!

Let's pray friends. Gracious Father, thank for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to die for our sins, paying what we could not pay. Help each of us learn more about you and to trust Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.

Okay, now, let's learn about the nature of God in a fun activity.

## Flutterflies

Point to the poster of the cocoon.



**ASK** ▶ **What do you see in this picture?**

**SAY** ▶ **This looks like a leaf...but it's really a cocoon! Some little caterpillar created this when it was time to change into a butterfly!**

**ASK** ▶ **How would a cocoon be a safe place for that caterpillar? How could a cocoon remind you of God's loving care for us?**

While you talk, wind up a Flutterfly 35 times and hold it between your palms.

**SAY** ▶ **God is so amazing! He created caterpillars so they can make a safe, cozy spot to stay away from birds or other animals that might want to eat them. Wow, God! Hold out your hands, with your palms pressed together, like a cocoon. And because they stay wrapped up and safe, something incredible happens.**

Quickly open your hands and let the Flutterfly fly!

**Wow! Now you can make one of these Flutterflies to remember that God is a safe place. (Wow, God!)**

Give each person a flutterfly.

Allow time for kids to decorate their Flutterflies. While kids are working, move around and show them how to wind the Flutterfly at least 35 times, then hold it straight out away from your body and release it. (Be sure kids put their names on their Flutterflies.)

When everyone is finished, have kids stand and wind up their Flutterflies.

**SAY** **God is our safe place!** As kids say, "Wow, God!" they'll release their Flutterflies all at once!

Have Leaders collect the Flutterflies and keep them safe to go home at the end of the day.

**The rainforest is full of animals that have everything they need because God takes care of them! And God loves us even more, so we can trust that he'll take care of us. Even when life around us feels scary, God is our safe place. (Wow, God!)**

**SAY** **Let's pray together before moving to our next rotation. Would someone like to pray for us thanking God for taking care of us?** See if a child would like to volunteer, if not, have a leader lead the group in a short prayer of thanksgiving.

Place the Flutterflies in the Take Home Baggies, with the summary of our day, for your students to take home at the end of our day together.

#### FIELD TEST FINDING

One little girl with gorgeous curls had her Flutterfly fly straight into her hair and get tangled. (No worries, we got it untangled without too much fuss.) You may tell kids with longer hair to hold the Flutterfly away from their head, or even stand a little away from Crew friends when releasing their butterflies.

#### FIELD TEST FINDING

We discovered that the direction you wind the Flutterfly will determine if it flies up or down. Let kids experiment!

**PREPARE TO ROTATE TO YOUR NEXT ROTATION.**

## WRAP-UP

**Before we say goodbye, take your name tag gently out of your plastic holder. You can keep the paper part. But hand your lanyard and plastic holder to a Leader so they can place it in the gray tub.**

**We are so glad you joined us for RAINFOREST FALLS VBS. Hopefully you see how much God loves you, He is real, and we can Trust Him! Please come back this evening to our VBS BAPTISM CELEBRATION in the Worship Center at 6pm!**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. VBS BAPTISM CELEBRATION NIGHT – THURSDAY NIGHT, TONIGHT AT 6PM! Join us as we worship & have baptisms! Individuals participating in baptisms need to arrive at 5 p.m. in the Worship Center.
2. Cottonwood Creek will also still host Hawaiian Waters Family Day on JULY 24th (Friday) with baptisms at 6pm in The Colony.
3. Take home your activities from today.
4. Be sure to share what you learned each day with your friends and family!
5. Make sure each child takes home any items that are theirs: Verse Buddy, VBS Activity Booklet, water bottles, Bibles, etc.

### **Kinder-4<sup>th</sup> graders:**

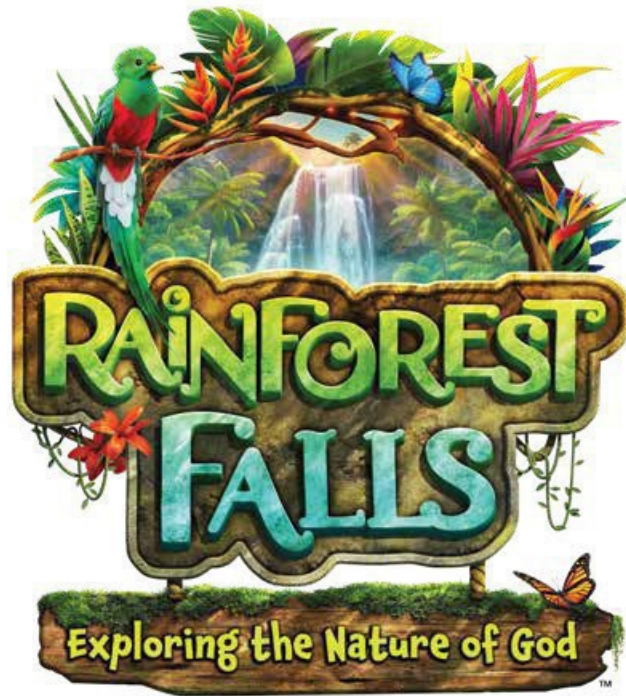
MUST be picked up by an adult or an older sibling, WITH the SECURITY code.

### **5<sup>th</sup> graders:**

self-release no earlier than NOON.

**LEADERS, please see our CLEAN-UP INSTRUCTIONS in this manual.**

# EXTRA ACTIVITIES



BORED CHILDREN TEND TO GET IN TROUBLE! HERE ARE EXTRA ACTIVITIES THAT ARE EASY TO DO WITH LITTLE TO NO SUPPLIES!

## MONDAY EXTRA ACTIVITIES:

Use these Monday ideas for any day this week.

### Recite Today's Bible Point:

Time needed—5 minutes or less  
No materials needed.

Gather your kids together.

**Each day we'll learn a Bible Point. That's an important truth from the Bible to remember. Today we learn that God is our creator! That's our Bible Point.**

**Whenever one of us leaders say: 'GOD, we want you to reply with: 'is our creator!' Ready, let's practice.**

Practice saying the Bible Point a few times with you starting the phrase and the kids replying.

### Rainforest Falls Ball Game

Time Needed: 10 minutes or less

Materials: ball & Psalm 103:22 Print

Gather your kids together.

**Rainforest Falls Review:** Have all the children sit in a circle on the floor, or stand in an open space like a clearing in the Rainforest. Choose a child to say the first word of the verse and begin passing the ball to the next child, so on and so forth, with each child saying one word of the verse. Whoever has the ball at the end of the verse has to answer this question: *if you built a fort in the Rainforest, would you build it on the rocks of the falls or in the canopy of the trees? Why?*

Discuss how a house built in the canopy of the trees would sway, and give way to the winds in a bad storm —just like a life that doesn't follow Jesus' words. A house built on the rock of the falls stays strong—like a life grounded in Jesus.

Try to say the verse faster, like you're racing a thunderstorm! Or toss the ball across the circle like flying rain—whoever catches it must say the next word **and** act like they're shivering or hiking in the rain! Repeat as many rounds as you'd like.

Remind the kids that in the Rainforest Falls, smart builders find solid ground for their forts. Jesus says we should do the same with our hearts and remember that when we wonder, we can trust Jesus!

**Psalm 103:22 Bible Verse**  
**Time needed—5 minutes**  
**Materials: Bible if have on hand**

Hold up your Bible.

**The Bible says in Psalm 103:22 that we should, “Praise the Lord, everything He has created, everything in all His kingdom.”**

**What does it mean to praise the Lord?**

Let kids call out answers. *(thank him through prayer, tell others about his goodness, worship him with song)*

**These things help us stay grounded in Jesus’ teachings and live our life like Jesus.**

**Let’s practice our verse, repeat after me:**

- Praise (children repeat)
- Praise the... (children repeat)
- Praise the Lord.. (children repeat)
- Praise the Lord, everything He has... (children repeat)
- Praise the Lord, everything He has created... (children repeat)
- Praise the Lord, everything He has created, everything in all... (children repeat)
- Praise the Lord, everything He has created, everything in all His kingdom. – Psalm 103:22 (children repeat)

## **TUESDAY EXTRA ACTIVITIES:**

Use these Tuesday ideas any day the rest of the week.

### **Jumbled Jungle Messages**

**Time needed—5-10 minutes**

**Materials: Messages below**

Sit your group in one straight line. Direct the first child to whisper the message you whisper to him, to the child next to him. That child then whispers the message to the next child. This continues all the way down the row to the last child.

Go to the opposite end from where you started the message, and have the last child report what they heard.

**Ask: What happened to our message? Why?**

**Optional Discussion Opportunity: Sometimes this happens in real life, too. Why do messages get jumbled up sometimes?**

Messages to use:

- **God is the creator.**
- **I am loved by God.**
- **God knows everything about me.**
- **The monkey stole my banana!**
- **Tiny tree frogs taking tea.**
- **Ten tiny toucans totally talking together.**
- **The lazy sloth slipped on a slippery slimy snake.**

## Learn Today's Bible Verse

Time needed—10 minutes or less

Materials needed: Bible – Psalm 139:1

BIBLE VERSE: "O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me." Psalm 139:1

**Imagine you're out in the Rainforest. There are so many wonderful parts of God's creation to see...but some of those are hard to see with just our eyes. Just like our friends don't know everything about us – but God knows everything about his entire creation! Let's pretend we have magnifying glasses and are exploring the Rainforest floor.**

Teach Motions for the Verse:

- "O Lord!" – Point to heaven
- "you have examined my heart" – hands crossed on heart
- "and know everything about me " – take hands from heart and cross them over your head and to your side.

After you have taught the kids the motions for the verse, have the kids pretend to walk through the Rainforest floor — looking for the TINY pieces of God's creation. When you call out "WOW, GOD!" everyone freezes. Say part of the verse (e.g., "Take courage!"), and kids do the matching motion and repeat it out loud. Do this several times, building up to saying the whole verse.

You can repeat with Speed Rounds. Say parts out of order, and have kids jump in with the correct motion and phrase. Try whispering it like a wind or shouting it boldly through the storm.

**I AM SO GLAD THAT EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT ALL THE TINY PIECES OF GOD'S WONDERFUL CREATION, HE DOES! Let's say our Bible point: God knows everything!**

## WEDNESDAY EXTRA ACTIVITIES:

Use these Wednesday ideas today or tomorrow.

### Learn Today's Bible Verse

Time needed—10 minutes or less

Materials needed: Multi-colored verse printout

**BIBLE VERSE: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His faithful love endures forever.  
Psalm 136:1**

Hold up the verse printout to show the kids gathered around you.

**Let's say the verse for today all together.**

Say verse Psalm 136:1.

**Now, I am going to tear off one word at a time and see if we can remember the words as they disappear.**

Tear off one word at a time, each time having the group or an individual, say the verse trying to remember the missing word.

Once all the words are gone, see who can recite the verse fully on their own.

**Today we are learning that God is love. No matter what you or I do, God always loves us.**

## THURSDAY EXTRA ACTIVITIES:

### Learn Today's Bible Point – Muddy Footsteps

Time needed—10 minutes or less

Materials needed: paper and markers

**BIBLE POINT: God is our safe place.**

Gather your kids together.

**Today our Bible point is that God is our safe place. No matter what, we can trust God.**

Give everyone paper and have them draw a footprint or hiking boot print on their paper. Prompt them to write different phrases on their paper like, "Jesus gives me strength," "I can pray when I'm scared," "Jesus is always with me," "I can trust Jesus when I feel small," or, "Jesus helps me when I feel stuck."

Scatter the footprints in a path across or around the room.

**You're crossing the Rainforest — a storm is coming, and you feel small and powerless. But someone has gone before you — Jesus! His footsteps are safe. Follow them and remember what He promises!**

One by one, kids walk the path, stepping only on the muddy footprints. As they land on each one, they must read the trust message aloud.

At the end of the trail, have a footprint that BOLDLY says:  
**God is our safe place!**

## Introduce the Bible Verse

Time needed—10 minutes

Materials needed: Verse motions

**BIBLE VERSE: "Then I pray to you, O Lord, I say you are my place of refuge."  
Psalm 142:5**

Gather the kids together and read the verse then teach them motions for Psalm 142:5 either from the script below, or make up your own moves together as a group.

**Then I pray to you** (prayer hands in front of chest)

**O Lord** (point to heaven)

**I say** (both thumbs point to chest)

**You** (point to heaven)

**Are my place of refuge.** (cross arms and hug yourself)

**Psalm 142:5**

Repeat as many times as you'd like until each student can confidently do the motions and say the verse.



# Cottonwood Creek Family Day

Friday, July 24 | Exclusive Hours: 6 – 9 p.m.

## Event Details

- Exclusive event for Cottonwood Creek families and friends.
- Tickets valid Friday, July 24, during public hours 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. **plus** our exclusive time from 6 - 9 p.m. (exclusive hours wristband required)
- Tickets valid all summer (2026)
- Hawaiian Waters Code of Conduct applies. See [hawaiianwaters.com](http://hawaiianwaters.com) under the park rules.

## Ticket Price

- \$20 | **ONLY** available at Cottonwood Creek prior to the event
- Ages 2 and younger – free
- No refunds

## **Additional Pre-Purchase Options:** **For use on Friday, July 24, ONLY**

- Meal Deal available at VBS Booth (hot dog, chips and one drink)  
- \$8
- Unlimited Drinks available at VBS Booth - \$6
- Online meal purchase (See other page for this option)



# FAQs

## **Are there any additional park costs?**

Charge applied at park for each container/cooler of food and/or drink. Restrictions: no fast food, alcohol, glass containers or sharp knives. See [hawaiianwaters.com](http://hawaiianwaters.com) for additional information.

## **What if I have a Season Pass?**

Season Pass holders should purchase \$8 add-on ticket at the **GROUP WINDOW** upon arriving at the park and must show Season Pass. At that time, an exclusive hours wristband will be given. The add-on ticket will get you into Cottonwood Creek Exclusive Hours.

## **How many tickets can I buy?**

Unlimited or until sold out. The tickets are good for one-time entry into Hawaiian Waters – The Colony all summer long. **NOTE:** The Season Pass add-on ticket is only valid July 24, 2026.

## **What if I purchase a ticket and can't come to the exclusive night?**

The ticket can be used anytime this summer, it is good for a one-time entry into The Colony location.

## **Can anyone attend the exclusive night?**

Yes, we welcome all our Cottonwood Creek families and friends and encourage them to use this as an outreach opportunity to invite others.

## **Can I purchase tickets at the gate?**

No, tickets must be purchased at Cottonwood Creek Church **prior to arrival** for entry into the exclusive event.

## **Can I purchase food there?**

Yes, the Café will be open until 8:30 p.m. Several kiosks with treat-type items will stay open until 8:45 p.m.