



DAY 1

VBS
CROCK BRIDGE

STELLAR
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

ALL-STAR ACTIVITIES

ELEMENTARY LEADER GUIDE

BEFORE STELLAR



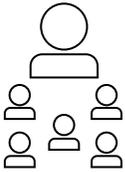
Pray for everyone who will attend Stellar.

Ask God to prepare your heart and the hearts of the kids and leaders who will be part of VBS.



Have a plan, but be flexible.

If you have only a few Crews at each rotation, you may have time for all three game options. **Delays in Large Group, or just varying personalities of kids affect how you will execute each rotation. Know your games and plan well so you can be flexible and make decisions in the moment when necessary.**

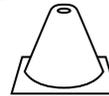


Determine the number of Crews you'll have in each rotation.

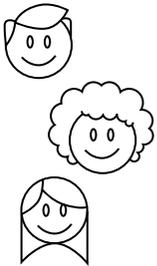
Know how your campus rotation schedule works and how many kids you will have in each rotation. Predecide how many groups you will divide up in for the various games.



Arrive early and check your supplies.



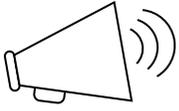
Your supplies should be ready for you each day, but a walk through before service launch will ensure your success!



Coordinate with your Co-Leaders and utilize Crew Leaders.

Teamwork will be invaluable to your success. Prior to each day, review the games so you can **give specific directions to Crew Leaders** to help you prepare, distribute, and collect the game supplies.

DURING STELLAR



Use an attention-getting signal.

Attention-getting signals let kids know when it's time to stop what they're doing and look at you. Examples include:

Leader: "1, 2, 3... Eyes on me!" Kids: "1, 2... Eyes on you!"

Leader: "If you hear me, clap once!" (Clap once and wait.) "If you hear me, clap twice!" (Clap twice and wait.)

Leader: "Mission control to crew!"

Kids: "Ready for launch!" (Sit up straight and freeze like astronauts preparing for takeoff.)



Call on kids to help

Every day, allow kids who are paying attention to pass out supplies, read Scripture, or be your helper.

Kids love feeling important and helpful!



Play Music from the VBS Playlist while kids play.

Music creates a fun atmosphere and, more importantly, reinforces faith!



Repeat the daily Main Point often.

Every activity focuses on one memorable Bible truth called the Main Point. Repeating the Main Point helps kids remember it and apply it to their lives after VBS.



Learn (and use) names.

While you won't have the opportunity to spend one-on-one time with participants, kids and adults will be wearing name badges. Try to call people by name.

TOKENS

This year, our kids will participate in a Token Challenge! To recognize and encourage meaningful participation and positive behavior, we will be rewarding kids with tokens throughout VBS!

- **Who is giving out tokens:** All of our volunteers will receive tokens to reward kids as they catch them engaging well in VBS.
- **What are we doing with the tokens:** Kids will work together to reach an Overall Token Goal and receive a celebration on the last night of VBS! Tokens are used to reward kids for remarkable expressions of love, kindness, great listening, participation, and memorizing our Main Points and Bible verse!
- **When are we passing out tokens:** Immediately! We want to help kids connect their positive attitudes, behaviors, and participation with the reward of the token, so as soon as you see a behavior to celebrate, pass out the reward!
- **Where are we getting tokens from:** We will have tokens available for all volunteers at check-in each night. As we use up our stash, there will be designated spots to go to for more throughout the night.
- **How do we distribute tokens:** Our volunteers will keep their eyes and ears tuned in to our kids so they can immediately reward them with a token to celebrate what we want repeated! They will praise the specific behavior that earned the reward when we give them their token. For example:
 - Active engagement during each rotation
 - Invite kids to “Show Me What You Know!” and let them earn a token by sharing the memory verse, finishing the lyrics to a worship song, sharing today’s “Main Point”, etc.
 - Displays of the fruit of the spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, self-control, gentleness
 - Demonstrating good manners, listening attentively, and following instructions the first time they're asked
 - Being respectful to volunteers, peers, and the VBS environment.
- **When do kids turn in their tokens:** There will be buckets available at each rotation for kids to drop their tokens in. All tokens will be brought to the closing session and combined so we can see how we're progressing towards our goal each night!
- **Remember, the goal of using tokens is to reinforce positive behaviors,** encourage active participation, and create a fun and rewarding experience for all kids attending VBS. Thank you for your commitment to making VBS a memorable and impactful event!

The Light of Jesus Changes Hearts!

Bible Story: Jesus accepts Zacchaeus. (Luke 19:1-9)

Bible Verse: “The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them. (Luke 19:1)

Leader Insights

- Zacchaeus’ role reminded God’s people of the dark oppression they faced. Jesus—an astounding teacher and leader—provided a ray of hope!
- The Roman government employed Jews like Zacchaeus to collect its overwhelming, heavy taxes. People paid taxes on everything from land to property, as well as customs on imports and exports. That’s why many Jews viewed tax collectors as Jewish traitors who served the hated Romans.
- Tax collectors gathered a higher tax than required, pocketing the difference for themselves. Since Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector—a high position with many officials under him—he became rich from the over taxation of his people.
- Many wealthy priests called the fertile city of Jericho home. In addition, its situation on a border would yield rich customs duties for local tax collectors.
- Welcoming a popular rabbi into his home for a meal would’ve been a huge honor for Zacchaeus. However, Jesus said he needed to stay at Zacchaeus’ home! Scholars suggest that Jesus still had 17 miles on his trek to Jerusalem. He’d need an overnight stay in Jericho before departing.
- The name Zacchaeus means “pure one.” Interesting, in light of the salvation he received through Jesus
- (Luke 19:9).



Why It Matters Today

Zacchaeus was a man who made bad choices, but when he met Jesus, everything changed! Jesus didn’t ignore or reject him—He showed love and kindness, and that changed Zacchaeus’ heart. Just like Zacchaeus, we all need Jesus to help us make right choices and love others well. When we follow Jesus, His light shines in us and helps us grow to be more like Him. No matter who we are or what we’ve done, Jesus’ love can change our hearts!

Day 1 Supplies:

- Day 1 Posters (1/station)
- Flashlights or glow sticks (representing Jesus' light)
- Cones, pool noodles, or chairs (to create an obstacle course)
- "Space debris" items (hanging balls of foil, hanging paper plate planets, stars, etc)
- Various colored paper plates (planets)
- Permanent marker
- small bowl
- cotton swabs (1 per Crew)

Before You Blast Off

- Create an obstacle course with cones, ropes, tunnels, hula hoops, any items you have. You will need 2 "courses" for teams to race against each other.
- Add "space debris" to items in your obstacle course to create the illusion of moving through space.
- Create multiple sets of "planets" by writing a word or two of the Memory Verse (John 8:12b) on each plate. Create enough sets so you can break into 2-3 teams per rotation, with a couple extra sets in case some get damaged.



VBS @ ROCK BRIDGE ACTIVITIES PLAYLIST

Welcome!

Give Crews a big welcome to Day 1 of All-Star Activities. Introduce yourself and your Co-Leader(s).

SAY

This week we're not just learning about shining Jesus' light—we're learning how to shine His light too!

The Bible contains the truth about Jesus' love for everyone! That's news everyone should have. Let's play a game to remind us of our Memory Verse for this week!

SPACESHIP TIP

As you welcome Crews each day, keep an eye out for kids or leaders with any physical challenges. Be prepared to modify activities so everyone can feel included in the fun! For example, if an activity has everyone crawling, you might say, "Crawl, scoot, or pretend to crawl."

Game 1: Light Speed Memory Verse Relay

SUPPLIES: Flashlights or glow sticks (representing Jesus' light), Cones, pool noodles, or chairs (to create an obstacle course), "Space debris" items (hanging balls of foil, hanging paper plate planets, stars, etc), Various colored paper plates (planets), Permanent marker

SAY

Alright, space explorers! Today, we're going to play a game to help us remember our Bible verse, John 8:12b (NIRV). Jesus said, *'I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have the light of life.'*

That means when we follow Jesus, His light guides us, just like a flashlight helps us see in the dark!

Now, here's how our game works. I'm going to divide you into teams, and each team will get a special flashlight. This flashlight represents Jesus' light, which helps us find our way.

In front of you is an obstacle course—you'll have to run, dodge, and weave through space debris to get to the other side! Along the way, you'll find planets with different parts of our Bible verse written on them. When it's your turn, grab one card and race to the finish line. Once you get there, shine your flashlight, read the words on your card out loud, and then pass the flashlight to the next person on your team.

Once everyone on your team has finished, you'll need to work together to put the verse in the right order. When you think you have it, say the whole verse out loud as a team! The first team to finish correctly wins the Light Speed Verse Relay!

Remember, just like astronauts need light to explore space, we need Jesus to guide us through life. So let's blast off and shine His light!

Play music and keep the atmosphere high energy as the relay begins. Walk around, encouraging Crew Leaders to cheer for kids by name and get their crews cheering for them as well.

Game 2: Climb & Seek

This tag-style game mirrors Zacchaeus' desire to see Jesus and Jesus' ability to see and call Zacchaeus, even when he was hiding in a tree. Throughout the game, emphasize how Jesus seeks us out and how His light can find us and change us, no matter where we are.

SUPPLIES: Cones or chalk to define boundaries, "Tree" spots marked with hula hoops, circles, or Xs on the ground (representing trees Zacchaeus might have climbed), *Optional:* glow bracelets or stickers for kids who get "found" (to show their "changed heart")

Set Up:

- Draw 5–8 circles with sidewalk chalk (about 3–4 feet in diameter), spaced out around the play area (OR use hula hoops)
- Create a "Changed Heart Zone" off to the side for each group, mark a small area with cones or chalk. This is where kids go after Jesus finds them. You can hand out glow bracelets or stickers here as a fun reward and visual of their "changed heart."

How to Play:

- Choose 1 "Jesus" and 2–3 "crowd members" (taggers). The rest of the kids are "Zacchaeuses."
- Spread "trees" (chalk circles, hula hoops, etc.) around the play area. Zacchaeuses can only stay in a "tree" for 5 seconds at a time (so they can't hide forever).
- On the leader's signal, Zacchaeuses run around, trying to avoid the crowd.
- If a "crowd member" tags them, they freeze for 3 seconds (like being blocked by the crowd).
- But if Jesus tags them, He calls their name and says, "Come down! I'm going to your house today!" (or just "Jesus sees you!" for younger kids).
- When tagged by Jesus, the child goes to a designated "changed heart" area where they get a bracelet/sticker and can rejoin the game as a "Jesus helper."
- The round ends when all Zacchaeuses have been found by Jesus. You can reset with new taggers for each round.

SAY

Today in our Bible story, we met a man named Zacchaeus. He was short, the crowd was huge, and he really wanted to see Jesus—so what did he do? That’s right—he climbed a tree!

But here’s the cool part: even though Zacchaeus thought he was just trying to see Jesus... Jesus already saw him. Jesus called him by name and changed his life that day!

In this game, you’ll pretend to be Zacchaeus, trying to stay out of sight and away from the crowd. But watch out—because someone playing Jesus is going to be looking for you! And when Jesus sees you and calls your name, you’ll get to join the “changed heart” team—because **The Light of Jesus Changes Hearts!**

Extra Time:

If you have extra time, consider reversing the roles: Zacchaeus Becomes the Seeker!

Once Jesus changed Zacchaeus’ heart, he started living differently—making things right and caring for others.

- Choose a few kids who were “found” and moved to the Changed Heart Zone.
- Now they become new Jesuses or Jesus’ Helpers and join the original Jesus in finding others.
- Play another round with the new seekers.
- This shows how Jesus’ light spreads when hearts are changed!