

**DAY 2**  
**VBS**  
CROCK BRIDGE



# STELLAR SMALL GROUP

ELEMENTARY LEADER GUIDE

# DURING STELLAR

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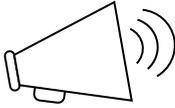
## Get Crew Leaders involved!

Guide Crew Leaders to participate right along with kids. When Crew Leaders listen, get involved, and have fun, kids do too!



## 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!



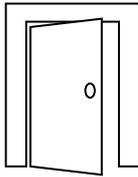
## Use an attention-getting signal.

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.)



## Gather outside the room first.

Gathering kids outside the room allows you to set the scene before they even enter the room and gives you the opportunity to create a big "wow" all at once.



## 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.



## Repeat expectations often and explain transitions.

Repeating expectations helps kids remember what is expected of them, creating a structured and positive learning environment. Clear transitions between activities prevent confusion and help kids shift their focus smoothly. When we take time to explain what's happening next, kids feel more secure and ready to engage.



Shine Jesus' light!

# 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!

# SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH KIDS

**The word gospel means “good news.”  
It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and  
salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.**

## **The Goal: Consistent, Frequent, and Low-Pressure**

Kids can trust Christ as Savior, and many of them do! Often, the ones who trust Him have heard consistent and frequent explanations of the gospel at home and church. However, young children are very eager to please adults, so we must be careful of what we say and how we present the Gospel. The child should take the initiative. We will avoid directly asking a child if he or she wants to trust Christ as Savior, unless the child has been asking questions and showing clear signs of readiness to make this decision. We will also avoid invitations where kids raise their hand or come to the front of the room to show their desire to trust Christ. Not only do children want to please adults, but they are also prone to copy the behavior of other children. Instead, we will give children the opportunity to talk to a leader or ask questions.

## **You Are A Gospel Seed Planter**

Overall, you should see your evangelistic role as a gospel seed planter. You are laying a foundation of biblical truth and repeating the gospel message clearly, consistently and frequently, so kids will be prepared to understand and receive the gospel when they are ready. Children often need to hear the gospel message many times before they can understand and respond to it.

### **What to say:**

-  **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)
-  **WE SINNED.** Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God’s punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)
-  **GOD PROVIDED.** God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It’s something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9)
-  **JESUS GIVES.** Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God’s family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18)
-  **WE RESPOND.** We can respond to Jesus. The ABCs of Becoming a Christian(see next page) is a simple tool that helps us remember how to respond when prompted by the Holy Spirit to receive the gift Jesus offers.

# THE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

**A,B,C:** (Admit, Believe, Confess)

**Admit** that we have sinned and need God's forgiveness.

**Believe** that Jesus died for our sins and rose again.

**Confess** that Jesus is Lord and choose to follow Him

## On Tuesday (Day 3)

### In 2nd-5th Grade Small Groups:

During the lesson, Station Leaders will share the Gospel. See *page 3 in the SG Leader Guide* for explanations of how to share the Gospel.

Kids will use the Response Card to share their thoughts about following Jesus. They will tell us they want to Wait, they Already follow Jesus, they are Ready to follow, or they have Questions about it.

Crew Leaders will collect the cards as kids finish and let Station Leaders know who in their crew has Questions or is Ready to follow Jesus. Station Leaders will lead any kids who have *Questions* or are *Ready* to step into the hallway and have an in-person conversation with one of the counselors.

Prayer Requests - Give to prayer team to pray over (send cards, if manageable)

Follow Jesus - give to a designated spiritual counselor to have a one-on-one conversation with the kid

Baptism - give to a designated spiritual counselor to have a one-on-one conversation with the kid

As crews finish collecting responses from their kids, the Station Leader will pass out the next activity. This will give kids something to work on quietly while other crews are still responding.

Counselors will take their kids back to their crews when they are done talking.

Station Leaders will turn in their entire stack of cards to \_\_\_\_\_ (who for your campus?) so that each kid can be appropriately followed up with in the weeks to come.

**Children's Ministers will preselect spiritually mature leaders to be available in the halls to have one-on-one conversations with kids about their next steps!**



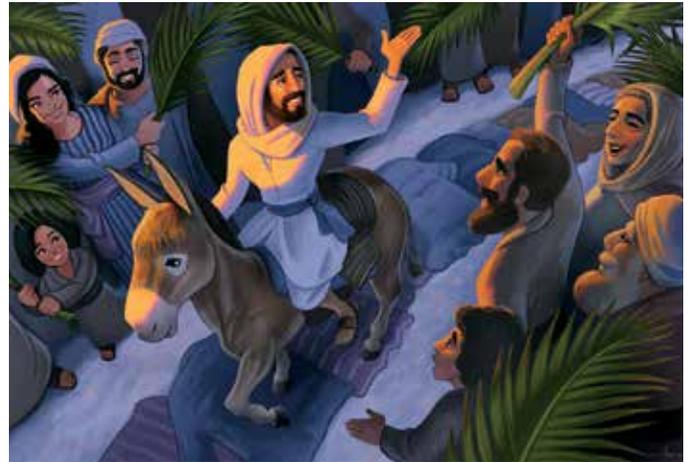
## The light of Jesus brings joy!

**Bible Story:** Jesus enters Jerusalem as a king. (Luke 19:28-40)

**Bible Verse:** “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Luke 19:38)

### Leader Insights

- Living for centuries under the rule of a foreign king must have felt like a long, endless, dark path for God’s people. Light began to dawn as they started recognizing how Jesus fulfilled God’s promises—although not in the way most people envisioned!
- Hundreds of years before Jesus’ birth, the prophet Zechariah proclaimed this message to God’s people: “Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey’s colt” (Zechariah 9:9).
- The joyful cheers, “Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!” (Luke 19:38) had deep meaning for Jews shouting them. These words are from Psalm 118 and are part of the Hallel, which they sang at Passover.
- During the Maccabean Revolt (167–160 B.C.), a priest named Judas Maccabeus led forces to defeat the Seleucid army and reclaim Jerusalem. In celebration, the people waved palm branches and cheered as he entered Jerusalem. It’s likely that those praising Jesus in Luke 19 recalled this key celebration, hailing Jesus as their coming, conquering king.
- This is the first occurrence of Jesus *openly* encouraging his title of Messiah.



### Why It Matters Today

Kids love to celebrate! When something exciting happens, they naturally cheer, dance, and clap. But true joy isn’t just about big moments—it comes from knowing Jesus, the light of the world. Every good thing in their lives, from laughter with friends to a warm hug, is a reminder of His love and care. By helping kids recognize Jesus as the source of all joy, we can guide them to praise Him not just in the big celebrations, but in everyday moments too. Today, encourage kids to let their joy shine by pointing to Jesus, the one who gives us light and life!

## Day 2 Supplies:



- small notebook (1/crew)
- Flicker Lights(1 per person in a rotation)
- baskets (1 per Crew)
- Black or dark blue construction paper (for space background)
- Yellow, orange, and white tissue paper or streamers (for comet tail)
- Glitter glue or metallic markers (for stars and light effects)
- colorful chalk
- Small paper plates or foam circles (gold, silver, white) for the comet's core)
- Stickers of stars/shiny shapes
- Glue and tape
- **Day 2 Main Point Labels (1/kid)**

## Before You Blast Off:

- Set out a notebook and a pen for each Crew. (the same notebooks can be used for multiple rotations)
- Prepare a basket for each Crew with Flicker Lights (1/kid).
- Bookmark Luke 19:38 in your Bible.
- Precut 10-12 in strips of streamers or tissue paper cut into strips for the tails of the comets. (3-4 strips per kid).
- Set out supplies for Joyful Comets in groups for Crews and create a demo to show kids.



**VBS @ ROCK BRIDGE SMALL GROUP PLAYLIST**

## Welcome Crews

Meet Crews outside your room.

Hold your Bible.

**SAY** Yesterday we saw how Jesus' love and friendship changed Zacchaeus' life! Today we'll see how a whole crowd of people saw the light in Jesus—and shined his light with praise!

In fact (cup your ear toward the door), I think I hear some cheering now! Let's go inside, clapping and cheering loudly as we go in!

Lead Crews into the room while cheering and clapping.

## Eye Witness News Report

**SUPPLIES:** small notebook (1/crew), Flicker Lights(1 per person in a rotation), baskets (1 per Crew)

**SAY** Thanks for cheering, everybody! I think we're about to join a special parade celebration! Wow! Today our Main Point is **The light of Jesus brings joy!** Point to the Main Point Poster.

One time I went to a parade... Briefly share about a parade you went to.

Now you can share with your Crews.

**ASK** Tell about a time you went to a parade or saw one on TV. After about a minute, give a 30-second warning. After that time is up, call kids back with a signal.

Call out the kinds of things you've seen at a parade.

**SAY** Parades can be really fun! Today's true story from the Bible is kind of like a parade. It all started when Jesus told his friends to go to a nearby village and find a young donkey. Then, he said, they should untie it and bring it to him, and if anyone asked why, they should say, "The Lord needs it." Let's practice that answer.

Why are you untying a donkey? Pause for kids to respond, "The Lord needs it."

Hey, what are you doing with that donkey? Pause for kids to respond, "The Lord needs it."

Wait! That's my donkey! Pause for kids to respond, "The Lord needs it."

Okay! Sounds like you're ready. Now, I'm going to need your help for our story today! You are going to be my eye witnesses for this exciting story true story!

Assign each crew a role. Their task is to create a mock "Eyewitness News Report" where they act as reporters interviewing people who were there. Examples include: Jesus' disciples, the cheering crowd, the skeptical Pharisees, the Roman soldiers, a child waving palm branches, or even the owner of the donkey.

**SAY** Okay reporters, here is your assignment: each group will listen carefully to the story, trying to imagine how your character(s) would have felt. Then, you will share with your Crew Leader and they will write down some words or phrases describing your character's viewpoint - perhaps a disciple excitedly proclaiming Jesus as King, a Pharisee expressing concern over the crowd's reaction, or a Roman soldier questioning whether Jesus poses a threat.

## Tell the Story

**SAY** After Jesus asked for the donkey, his disciples obeyed and found the donkey, just like Jesus said! They brought it to Him, laid their coats on its back, and Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Once they found their special donkey, Jesus got on the donkey and rode into town. And people recognized he was super special! Here's one reason: In those days, kings sometimes rode horses and sometimes rode donkeys.

When a king rode a horse, it meant he was going to war. But when a king rode a donkey, it meant he was coming with peace and gentleness.

Don't get me wrong, lots of people rode donkeys back then. But Jesus was an amazing teacher who'd done stellar things like no one else. Since we haven't talked a lot about Jesus' miracles, I'll call them out. Each time I do, cheer, "That's a good thing!"

- Jesus healed lots of sick people! (That's a good thing!)
- Jesus fed a crowd of 5,000 people with just a little bread and fish! (That's a good thing!)
- Jesus brought a dead man back to life! (That's a good thing!)
- Jesus calmed a stormy sea—and he walked on water! (That's a good thing!)

Remember the crowds that Zacchaeus couldn't see over? Everyone was talking about Jesus! As He entered the city, crowds of people gathered, shouting joyfully, "*Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!*"

People began to think he might be something pretty special. And a prophecy written long ago talked about God's chosen king entering the city on a donkey. So Jesus—a teacher who did miracles—entering the city on a donkey? That meant something!

**+** But that's not all! People had been waiting a long time for the Messiah. Long ago, God promised to send a special savior for his people. And the Messiah would come riding on a young donkey.

### SPACESHIP TIP

If kids start to share at a time when they need to be doing something else, you can affirm them but also redirect. A simple hand on a child's shoulder and saying, "I'd love to hear more later" will help them refocus on the lesson without feeling shut down. Be sure you or a Crew Leader follows up and ask them later!

## SPACESHIP TIP

Look for Crews or kids modeling behavior you desire, and give them public praise. For example, we had one Crew that was doing an especially good job working together to **write their news report**. Our Bible leader said, "I love how well you're working together!"

People wanted to honor and celebrate King Jesus, so they spread their coats on the road and waved palm branches, praising God for all the miracles they had seen. But not everyone was happy.

Some Pharisees in the crowd frowned and said, "Teacher, tell Your followers to be quiet!" But Jesus replied, "If they stay silent, even the stones will cry out!" Jesus was showing everyone that He was the true King, and nothing could stop God's plan!

All right, now's the time to get with your Crews and write out your character reports!

Give Crews 2-3 minutes to write out their news report on their characters. Allow one volunteer from each Crew to share.

## SAY

Thanks reporters! You did a great job! Even though some people didn't understand, this was a very good and important day! Remember, **The light of Jesus brings joy!** People saw a coming king—their promised Savior. They wanted to shine his light! So they called out to praise him. Let me read what they said.

Read Luke 19:38 with enthusiasm. "*Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!*" *May there be peace and glory in the highest heaven!*"

## SAY

They also waved palm branches—an act of honor for a king. I don't have any palm branches, but I have something else we can wave to shine Jesus' light.

Instruct Crew Leaders to hand each kid a Flicker Light from their basket.

Instruct kids to repeat the Main Point as they turn on and wave their Flicker Lights.

The Bible also says the people praised God for the wonderful miracles they'd seen. Let's do that, too! Because **The light of Jesus brings joy!** Let's shout out amazing things God has done that we've seen. It might be something God has made, something God's given you—any kind of God Sighting! After each person shouts something, everyone will cheer, "That's a good thing!" and wave their lights.

Begin by calling something out. Encourage Crew Leaders to share if kids need to think.

Let kids shout out their praises.

Lead everyone in cheering and waving their lights after each praise. Continue for about a minute, then let Crews sit down together.

Crew Leaders can collect the Flicker Lights and return them to the baskets.



## SPACESHIP TIP

You may want to dim the lights to let the Flicker Lights shine brighter.

## Joyful Comet – Shining the light of Jesus!

**SUPPLIES:** Black or dark blue construction paper (for space background), Yellow, orange, and white tissue paper or streamers (for comet tail), Glitter glue or metallic markers (for stars and light effects), colorful chalk, Small paper plates or foam circles (gold, silver, white) for the comet's core), Stickers of stars/shiny shapes, Glue and tape, **Day 2 Main Point Labels (1/kid)**

**SAY**

**The light of Jesus brings joy!** Most of the crowd was happy to see Jesus and shined his light with praise. But there were some people in the crowd who got mad. They didn't believe that Jesus really is God's Son. They thought he was just a regular teacher and that he should tell people not to praise him.

Listen to what Jesus said.

Read aloud Luke 19:39-40.

If the people didn't praise him, the stones along the road would burst into cheers! We're going to make our own joyful comets! Just like a comet lights up the sky with joy, we shine with the joy of Jesus. Think of good words to describe and praise Jesus—maybe words from our songs this week!

First, we will start by decorating a small paper plate or foam circle to represent the core of the comet. You can color it, add stickers, or use metallic markers to make it shine. Next, we will attach strips of yellow, orange, and white tissue paper or streamers to the back of their comet to create a glowing tail, representing joyful praise spreading like light.

Once the comet is complete, they will glue it onto a sheet of black construction paper to serve as the space background. Using glitter glue or metallic markers, they can add stars, planets, or other space elements to complete the scene. Give each kid a Main Point Day 2 Label to put in the center of their comet.

Encourage kids to write a short praise message on their artwork, such as "Shine Jesus' Light with Joy!" or "Hosanna! Jesus is our Light!"

Wrap up by reminding the children that just as comets shine joyfully in space, we are called to let Jesus' light shine through us with joy. Encourage them to think of ways they can share Jesus' light this week.



### WHAT WE FOUND

We originally asked for kids to share "words of praise," and we found that term wasn't very clear. Kids were sharing generic Christian terms, such as *faith* and *encourage*. One child simply started listing the fruits of the Spirit. By reframing this as words that describe Jesus, we were able to focus in on praising him!

### WHAT WE FOUND

We had one child who went into a lot of detail with her praise story. When kids are taking a long time to share, say something like "Let's hear one more thing quickly, because we want to hear from everyone!"

