



DAY 3

VBS
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STELLAR SMALL GROUP

PRESCHOOL LEADER GUIDE

DURING STELLAR



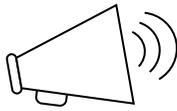
Get Crew Leaders involved!

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.)



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!

MAIN POINT

The light of Jesus rescues us!

Bible Story: Jesus dies on the Cross for our sins and rose again! (John 19–20)

Bible Verse: “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God.” (John 14:1)

Leader Insights

- Jesus repeatedly spoke words of comfort and kindness from the cross. He forgave his captors (Luke 23:34), welcomed a thief (Luke 23:43), and gave his mother into John’s care (John 19:26-27). His words from the cross offered a glimmer of light in an otherwise dismal and dark day.
- In Luke 2:34-35, Simeon held the infant Jesus and spoke a prophecy and blessing to Jesus’ parents. Ending his message, he turned to Mary and said, “And a sword will pierce your very soul.” Perhaps his words foreshadowed Mary’s heartbreaking grief at the cross.
- Romans used crucifixion to send a grisly message of their power and authority. While Jesus succumbed to death on a cross, ultimately he displayed *his* uncontested power—even over death!
- Joseph of Arimathea could have been excommunicated from the synagogue for his support of Jesus. Instead, he boldly gave Jesus a burial fit for a king. Royal burials used large amounts of myrrh and aloes. Joseph and Nicodemus used a whopping 75 pounds of the mixture as they tenderly prepared Jesus for burial.



Why It Matters Today

As we share the message of the gospel with kids, a message of hope is important because, even at a young age, they experience sadness, fear, and uncertainty. They might feel lonely, struggle with friendships, face disappointments, or deal with loss. Knowing that Jesus’ light shines even in the darkest moments gives them a solid foundation to hold onto.

Hope in Jesus means that they are never alone, that God’s love never changes, and that there is always a reason to keep going, even when life is hard. It reminds them that sadness and tough times won’t last forever—Jesus has already won the victory, and His love brings joy and peace. Just like a bright star shines in the night sky, Jesus’ light is always there to guide them, no matter what they face.

Day 3 Supplies:



- Day 3 Posters
- glow sticks (1/kid)
- yarn/elastic string
- jumbo glow in the dark beads.
- glow in the dark markers
- **Day 3 Main Point Cross (1/kid)**



Before You Blast Off

- Display Day 3 Posters
- Any windows should still be covered with black plastic from Day 1.
- Cut out Main Point Crosses.
- Punch a hole in the top of each cross.
- Cut yarn/elastic string in lengths long enough for a necklace. (~18-20 in)
- **Separate supplies into baskets for crews to make passing out supplies quick.**
- Before your rotation, make sure beads are sitting under light so they glow.



VBS @ ROCK BRIDGE SMALL GROUP PLAYLIST

Welcome Crews

SUPPLIES: Glow sticks (1/kid/rotation)

Greet Crews warmly outside your room.

SAY

Welcome back to Small Group! Seeing your happy, smiling faces brightens my day. You are like a ray of sunshine in my life.

Invite everyone to give you a great big smile.

It's so fun to go outside and play in the warm sunshine. God made the sun in an amazing way! Did you know that the sun is a really big, twinkly star? It's the closest star to our planet, Earth.

Sometimes when you're feeling a little sad or grouchy, going out to play in the bright sunshine helps make you feel better.

Today we are learning **The light of Jesus rescues us!**

Instruct Crew Leaders to hand out glow sticks to each kid. Turn off the lights in the room.

Sing the Welcome Song

SAY

The sun is a big star that shines. And today we are learning how we can shine Jesus' light! Let's sing our welcome song and celebrate how special we are to Jesus!

Have everyone stand and wave their glow stick as they're able and sing this song to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

Twinkle, twinkle, little star, *(Fling out fingers four times, like blinking lights)*

Jesus loves you as you are. *(Hug yourself)*

You are special, yes, it's true. *(Point forward, then nod head "yes")*

I'm so glad that God made you. *(Put hand on chest, then point up with both hands)*

Twinkle, twinkle, little star, *(Fling out fingers four times, like blinking lights)*

Jesus loves you as you are. *(Hug yourself)*

Have each child choose whether to give their Crew Leader a high-five.

SAY

Way to shine, everyone! Let's give some nearby friends a happy high-five to celebrate!

SPACESHIP TIP

If kids like something, they'll want to do it again! So embrace repetition, and take time to repeat activities.



Huddle Around the Light

Wow! All those high-fives are a great way to shine Jesus' light. Today we are learning **The light of Jesus rescues us!** Turn off the lights in the room.

Remember the people who got mad about Jesus accepting praise yesterday? Those religious leaders had a long history of not liking Jesus. They didn't believe he was really God's Son. In fact, they wanted Jesus' light to stop shining. One of his friends even turned against him, and brought soldiers to arrest Jesus.

Cover your glowstick with one hand. Pause, demonstrating what you mean.

SAY

Make a Crown

Soldiers arrested Jesus and pressed a crown of sharp thorns on his head. It was their way of hurting him and teasing him for saying he was a king.

In the middle of your Crew, make a circle with your glowsticks. This reminds us of the crown. **Pause.**

The soldiers began to hit Jesus and hurt him.

Put your hand where you have a scab or a scar or bump—a place you've been hurt. Pause and put a hand on a scar you have. If you don't have one right now, touch a place where you've had one before.

They said mean things to Jesus, and said he could not be God's Son.

Jesus knows what mean, hurtful words feel like. You do, too. They don't hurt your body, but they hurt your heart and make you sad. Take your glowstick and hold it in your hand. Hold your glowstick in your palm to demonstrate.

Think about a time you felt sad as you look at your glowstick.

SAY

Gather Around the Cross

The leaders decided to put Jesus to death on a wooden cross. They made Jesus carry his heavy cross up a hill. Stand up and hold your light in your outstretched palm. Hold your arm straight in front of you. Hold out a light to demonstrate.

You're holding a small light. Jesus' broken body carried a big, heavy cross. Feel your arm get heavier and more tired. **Pause.** Sadness can make us feel tired and weary, too. We've felt that way; so has Jesus. Jesus understands.



SPACESHIP TIP

Encourage Crew Leaders to watch for kids who place their hands on their hearts. This is a great insight into what kids might be feeling or struggling with.



Girl Crew members pull your glow stick in and cover it completely. Pause.

Boys, pull your glow stick in and cover it completely. Pause.

Jesus said, “It is finished.” Then he died.

Crew Leaders, **pull your glow stick in and cover it completely pull your glow stick in and cover it completely**

Jesus had once said, “I am the light of the world.” But that day, no light shined.

Pause and allow several seconds of silence.

Shine Jesus!

SAY

It might seem like Jesus died because bad people did bad things to him. But Jesus dying was a part of God’s plan. We all do wrong things, and that means we can’t be friends with God. That made God sad! He wanted to make sure we *could* be friends with him. So Jesus died to take our punishment. Now we can be friends with God when we believe in Jesus.

Here’s what’s even better: Jesus has the power to overcome death!

Crew Leaders and kids, hold your glow stick up again! Hold yours high in the air.

Jesus was buried in a tomb for 3 days. One the 3rd morning, his friends went to visit the tomb, but it was empty! His friend Mary even saw him and talked to him.

Jesus was alive! Hug yourself with me like you are hugging your friends over some happy news!

Mary ran to tell all his friends she had seen Jesus—alive! Lead kids in running in place.

Turn on the room lights.

Wow! Jesus took our sins with him to the grave, to rescue and save us!

Celebrate

Our story went from bright and cheery to dark and grim. But it didn’t stay that way. Jesus is alive today! That means that no matter what we do, Jesus’ death was enough to take our punishment and save us! **The light of Jesus rescues us!**

Because Jesus is alive, we can always shine his light! No matter what we do or what happens, Jesus can help us shine with his love.

Tomorrow we will find out how Jesus’ friends kept his light shining, even after Jesus went back to heaven.



GLOWSTICK CROSS NECKLACE

SUPPLIES: glow sticks (1/kid), yarn or elastic string, glow in the dark beads, **Day 3 Main Point Cross** (1/kid), sharpie (1/crew)

SAY

Today we get to take our glow sticks home, but we are going to make something awesome to remind us that **The light of Jesus' rescues us!**

Instruct Crew Leaders to hand each kid a piece of yarn and a Main Point Cross. Instruct kids to thread their Main Point Cross onto their yarn. They can then color their cross and add beads to their necklace.

God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. Jesus died and took the punishment for all the wrong things we do. But Jesus is stronger than death, and he came back to life! Jesus wants to be our friend forever. When we ask him to, he'll take away the wrong things we've done and fill our lives with his love. Jesus will always be with us and will help us make the right choices. When we believe in Jesus and ask him to forgive us, someday we'll live with him forever in heaven.

Before dismissing, instruct Crew Leaders to write kids names on the back of each Cross.

These necklaces can be a reminder of the hope we have because

The light of Jesus' rescues us!

